THE STORY OF GUIDING IN NORTHLAND

THE STORY OF GUIDING IN NORTHLAND

Celebrating Thirty-Five Years As A Province

Compiled by
Dorothy West

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Meagan Fifield, left, Shelley-Ann Quaife, and Lucy McFadden, upper right, founding members of the Raumanga Pippins.

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	iv
Introduction	v
Foreword	vii
How Guiding Started	1
The Beginning of Guiding in Northland	3
A Tribute to Kathleen Harrison	4
Northland's Badge - The Marsden Cross	5
Pippins	6
Brownies	7
Guides	9
Rangers	14
Lones	18
Extensions	20
Trefoil Guild	23
Support Committees	24
Guideline	25
Guide Shop Depot	25
Trefoil Park	26
International Guiding	32
Events Over the Years	37
Some Highlights From The Years	40
Provincial Commissioners	48
Appendices	
Division Commissioners	54
Trainers	55
National Medal Awards	56
Provincial Awards	57
Queens Guides	64
Duke of Edinburgh Awards	65
Channels of Communication	66
Lady Baden-Powell - Her Last Message	67

Kaitaia guides camping at Aurere c1935

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I would like to add a special thank you to the following people:

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Sheila Marshall for her work in designing the cover.

Sybil Overton, Provincial Commissioner at the time, for her confidence in asking me to compile this book, and her encouragement during the process.

Without you all I could not have done it.

Dorothy West.

INTRODUCTION

The seed of an idea for a history of Northland guiding must have been sown with me when I first became involved with the organisation. When taking on a role within the movement, I was given boxes, files, papers and all kinds of bits and pieces. I'm sure this is familiar to many people. I really became interested in the idea when I was chairman of the training team, and I heard other people voice the same idea. The obvious person to put it all together was Dorothy West.

To me Dorothy is guiding. She seems to embody all the guiding principles, loyalty, trust, friendliness, enthusiasm and fun - and she can always be relied on to "do her best".

What a job it has turned out to be. Delving into minute books and annual reports, sifting through newspaper cuttings and photographs, not to mention contacting and cajoling people to remember and tell about events and happenings.

It has been a pleasure and a revelation for me to be part of it all and I am thrilled that it has finally come to fruition. I'm sure that all who read this book will share that true guiding spirit and enthusiasm and relive very happy times.

This book has tried to record some of the special events in guiding history in Northland, and is dedicated to all those people who have made the promise, worn the uniform and been part of a very special organisation. I hope it will be the inspiration for those presently involved and also those who are yet to join, so that guiding continues here in Northland into the next century.

Sybil Overton
Provincial Commissioner 1988 to 1994.

FOREWORD

We find history more meaningful when related to human beings. This story is about thousands of Northland girls and women who have worn the uniform of the Girl Guide Association - some for a short time, some for many years. However long their involvement, it is important for they are our history.

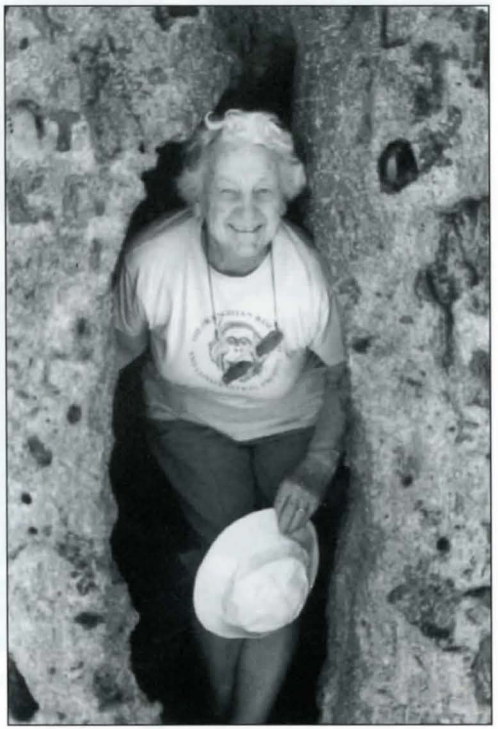
With the help of many of these people I have tried to relate a cross-section of events, achievements and memories. Although time, space and cost limit me, and many records are often inadequate or have been lost, and memories are not always reliable, this history gives my overall impression of guiding in Northland during the last thirty-five years.

My involvement with guiding goes back to 1928 when the 2nd Lone Company was opened to accommodate the closed Ruawai Company. I lived in the King Country at the time and my patrol leader was Molly Cossar of Ruawai! I continued on to be a leader in Lones, and was the youngest lieutenant at the very first Lone Conference in 1937.

During the next sixteen years I continued as a lone guider, apart from a four-year break during WW2, when I married Charles and had a son. In 1953 we moved north to settle at Onerahi. Mavis Linnell, the local Brown Owl had just left to get married, and the mother of one of her brownies was delivering our mail. I'd planned to keep my guiding involvement a secret for a while but the guide insignia on one of my letters let the cat out of the bag. The rest is history.

It is important to me that this record is written, and I feel privileged to have been asked to put it together. Thank you, everyone who has contributed, without you this story would have been nothing.

Dorothy West



Dorothy, on a recent Australian adventure - coming out of a Boab tree in the Kimberley Range.

4th Northland Brownie Pack (Kaitaia) 1927
First registered in February 1929

Back Row: Peace Matthews, Lenore Lewis, Daphne Jameson, Jean Lewis, Amy Hodgson, May Donaldson.

Middle Row: Peggy Lewis, Dulcie Ramsey, Zelda Johnson, Mrs Bloomfield, Joyce Hooper, Esther Donaldson, Dulcie Matthews, Thea Donaldson.

Front Row: Nora Straker, Ivy Brown, Laddie, Audrey Johnson, Kathleen Parker.

HOW GUIDING STARTED

No story of an organisation can begin without an account of its "roots". The seed was sown in the mind of Lt. General Robert Baden-Powell (later Lord) of the British Army, the defender of Mafeking in South Africa during the Boer War. During the campaign boys had been used to carry messages and do other light work. On returning home he decided to try out the idea of training boys to give service.

A camp on Brownsea Island, taking boys from varying backgrounds proved so successful that he wrote a handbook called "Scouting for Boys" his challenge for body, mind and spirit. It was first published in fortnightly parts. Before long girls wanted to share the fun - even in 1908 they were determined not to be left out!

Baden Powell wasn't prepared for this, but the girls persisted by attaching themselves to a huge rally of "Boy Scouts" at the Crystal Palace in 1909. It was impossible to ignore them, and Baden-Powell asked his sister Agnes to help. Her book "How Girls Can Help To Build An Empire" came out a year or so later. The British movement was called "Baden-Powell's Girl Guides" - the name Guides coming from a famous Indian regiment renowned for its resourcefulness and reliability.

In 1912 Lord Baden-Powell married Olave Soames who became a much loved Chief Guide. As the movement spread around the world they both travelled, visiting their growing "family". He died in 1941 and she in 1977, leaving a legacy of principles to scouts and guides worldwide. It was their wish that both movements would respect the religious beliefs of all and be strictly non-political. The Promise and Law may have changed in wording over the years, and be worded differently in many counties, but the meaning has remained the same - it is the foundation upon which guiding is built.

In New Zealand a friend of Baden-Powell's, a Lt. Colonel Cossgrave, started the Girl Peace Scouts during 1908. Based on the same scouting principles the Peace Scouts continued until 1923 when they changed their name and registered as the Girl Guides Association of New Zealand. Today we are one of 110 countries that link millions of girls, giving the chance of lifelong friendships, adventure and challenges.

4th Northland Guide Company (Kaitaia) 1927
First registered October 1928

Back Row: (from left) Florence Matthews (Capt.), Gwen Hicks, Anita Hooper, Rose Kunicich, Alice Kerr, Eileen Dunn, Pixie fryer, Elsie Geard, Audrey Bell (Leut.)

Middle Row: Thelma Mounyhan, Dorreen Flynn, Rose Matthews, Doris Geard, Grace McKewon.

Front Row: Lorraine Reed, Florence Black, Gwen Jameson, Madge Logan, Myrtle Wallace, Wynsom Hollay.

THE BEGINNING OF GUIDING IN NORTHLAND

Mrs Kathleen Harrison, who was Division Commissioner for Northland during the 1950's when it was part of the Auckland province, researched the early days of guiding in Northland. This is an abridged account of the information she provided in the booklet "50 Years of Guiding in Northland" produced in 1976.

A troop of Girl Peace Scouts was formed at Motukaraka in the Hokianga district prior to 1914. There is a record of some peace scouts signalling to a passing ship off the coast of Northland. It could have been these girls. In 1924, a year after the Girl Guide Association of New Zealand was registered, a guide company and a brownie pack opened in Maungaturoto. Names associated with these units are Eve Day, Doll Cullen and Chris Gillet. Ruawai and Naumai companies followed in 1925 - Mrs Jardine, E and G Bailey and E Fuge are the names recorded as the first leaders of guide and brownie units there.

When the Ruawai Company closed in the late 1920s the guides joined the 2nd Auckland Lones. They made up most of the unit but girls from the Waikato and King Country also belonged. There were girls from Northland in the 1st Auckland Lone Company as well. When the lones were transferred to Northland in 1963 we inherited three guide companies and one brownie pack.

Back to 1926. The 1st Whangarei Guide Company was formed with Nea Harvey, Rita Dyer and Mavis Baigent as leaders. The first brownie pack was opened by Mrs Clough, with a ranger patrol being attached to the guide company in 1927. That year saw a second guide company set up by M. Millington and Doris Holmes, and a ranger unit started at Onerahi by E. Tonkin and Miss Worsp. In the same year brownie, guide and ranger units opened at Kohukohu, and guide and brownie units at Kaitaia, Russell, Kawakawa and Hikurangi. Kaitaia opened a ranger unit in 1933 with Florence Mathews (who later became Mrs J. O. Keene) in charge. She had started guides there earlier.

During the 1930s many more areas opened units. Some were closed, then re-opened as leaders (often teachers) moved. Then, for a short period all Northland units were closed by direction - no one knows why. They began to open again in 1938, but WW2 brought a halt to progress - only five units carried on during the war years.

In 1946 a sea ranger unit ran for just a year or so under Mrs E Horrell, but by 1949 there were nine units - brownies, guides and rangers - in Northland.. Many Northland girls were members of the Akatea Lone Rangers, which were organised for 40 years from Auckland under the guidance of Isabel Stuart.

During the 1950s there was a resurgence in the guide movement, and by 1960 - when we became a province in our own right - there were 34 brownie packs and 29 guide companies.

A TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN HARRISON

"I remember you. You enrolled me as a brownie/guide". So many Northland women reminded Kathleen with these words years later. Kathleen's interest in guiding began when she was teaching in Taumarunui in 1938. She moved from there to Whitianga in 1941 and took over as district commissioner. Her next move was to Poroti near Whangarei in 1948, and almost immediately she became district commissioner for mid-Northland. The following year she took over as division commissioner. At that time the entire area north of Auckland was a division of the Auckland province.

While still teaching Kathleen gave all her spare time to helping the guides. When she retired and moved to Whangarei in 1955 she worked full-time fostering the guide movement. In just one year she travelled more than 16,000 kilometres and opened 30 new units. Her quiet efficiency endeared her to girls and adults alike as she warranted leaders, tested golden hand brownies and first class guides, and encouraged camping. During part of this time she also ran her own guide unit in Whangarei.

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Kathleen Harrison with Rangi Sexton as she takes her guide pledge.

In 1957 Kathleen was awarded the Medal of Merit. Two years later, following the change of administration she took break for several years, travelling to England and back, twice, and enjoying her garden. In the late 1960s she accepted an invitation to return to active guiding. During the years 1970-80 she was assistant provincial secretary, adviser for both lones and extensions, and leader of the Blomfield School Extension Guide Company. This was one of the great joys of her guiding life.

Velma Kennett has many fond memories of Kathleen - from the time she was pack leader in the newly opened Dargaville pack until she worked beside Kathleen with the IHC rangers.

"Kathleen was an imposing figure in her navy serge suit, hat turned up on one side with a large cockade, and large brown gauntlet leather gloves. Her husband usually accompanied her, and could be found helping behind the scenes. A quiet but determined lady, she took great care and patience with her handicapped guides. She loved her garden, especially her roses, and was extremely methodical, keeping meticulous records. It was a privilege to work with her."

Kathleen retired from all guiding activities in 1979 after more than 40 years service and her influence above all others set the pattern for Northland Province. She died in 1984.

NORTHLAND'S BADGE - THE MARSDEN CROSS

When Northland became a province in 1960 it took the Marsden Cross as the emblem for its badge. Choosing the design hadn't been an easy task. There were many suggestions; an outline of the coast, that was too messy; the kauri tree, the scouts already had that on their emblem; the pohutukawa, a kiwi, the Waitangi Treaty House...

A design of the cross with the sea and hills in the background was sent to headquarters. When the finished product returned it depicted a simple blue-grey cross on a plain green background - a disappointing result. Almost 30 years later it was redone using our original idea and is much more attractive. Incidentally, the scouts later used our idea.

The original Marsden Cross is set beside the beach at Oihi Bay, just inside the northern entrance to the Bay of Islands. The cross is seven metres high and is built of hard volcanic stone from the Malmesbury quarry, Victoria, Australia. The base is of Auckland volcanic stone. It was unveiled on Tuesday 12th March 1907 by His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand, the Right Honourable William Lee, Baron Plunkett, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.

The Rev. Samuel Marsden had preached his first Christmas message to the Maori on this spot, with Chief Ruatara interpreting for him. Today a farm road through private property is the only access by land; it is more easily reached by sea.

It was near Oihi that the first recorded land sale took place. The Church Missionary Society bought 200 acres for 12 axes. It was here too that the first European child was born, a boy, Thomas King. He died two and a half years later.

Chief Ruatara planned to build a town along European lines on the land to the west of the bay, but nothing came of it and the site was later abandoned. Hannah King Letherbridge (nee Hansen) was born around this time in the adjoining bay, Te Puna. She was the first white female baby born in New Zealand. She died aged 91 and is buried in the Russell churchyard.

Shortly after the cross was put up a storm blew the top off. This was soon replaced, and the original still lies near by. The cross is Celtic in form, symbolising light and life and reminding all of Marsden's text "Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy!" On the base is engraved this inscription:

On Christmas Day 1814 the first Christian service in New Zealand was held on this spot by the Rev. Samuel Marsden.

PIPPINS

Pippins care, so pippins share with other children everywhere.

A sweet young apple (the pippin variety) gave its name to the pre-brownie age, 6 to 7 years. Pippins wear a pop-over-style apron with the pippin apple badge on it. The apron easily slips over school clothes and is something special to wear and be proud of. Each pippin is given a small felt purse - apple shaped of course - when they joined the group. This is used to keep subs and notices safe.

Sue Carppe remembers her days as a pippin leader with enthusiasm:

"My pippin group had its meeting place at home - just a small group, but we had lots of fun. Our session always included a game, a song or story and an activity.

Microwave ovens were a great invention for us - we could bake a batch of fairy cakes and eat them in just a few minutes, with more than enough time to make a second batch! My pippins loved these traditional feminine activities, but one favourite day that I remember was our "Indian Day". Making a tepee, painting faces, and learning the "pow-wow"song turned these little ladies into "wild Indians" with lots of giggles and laughter all round.

At our meetings we could do any amount of things - make windmills and blow them round, design kites and fly them, pick flowers and create a posy, make a mixture and blow bubbles. We could make friends, have fun, share, care and learn - a great way to get ready to become a brownie and part of the girl guide movement."

BROWNIES

We're the brownies, here's our aim – Lend a hand and play the game.

As the brownies skip around the toadstool they sing their brownie song. It's an age of magic, of make believe, of learning through stories and games, of development through imagination and fun.

A brownie asked, "Why be good and not be bad?" And the wise brown owl replied, "Because it's such a waste of time being bad." So a brownie learns to care and share, to look, to listen, and to think. At the same time she is learning practical skills - to lend a hand.

I remember one brownie in particular who was to give her father a cup of tea in bed on Father's Day. She woke him with a well-set tray of tea and biscuits - at 3.30am!

My brownie pack had some very bright children, so when planning an end-of-year programme for parents and friends I decided to let each six plan their own item. We were fortunate in having a room for each to practise in at our meeting place. They didn't tell me their ideas. I sat in my car knitting or reading during that part of each week's programme. They all knew where I was if they wanted advice or help, but they never did.

On the evening I introduced that part of the programme to our visitors with some trepidation. The stage had red velvet curtains which pulled across between items. We were treated to a cowboy story, a series of international dances for Christmas, a nursery rhyme sung and danced - every one different and well done. The final curtain closed, and then the tiniest brownie of all parted them just enough to show her face and said loudly and clearly "THE END" She brought the house down.

No one believed my lack of involvement, but it proved how capable children, even young brownies, can be when given the opportunity. I remember discussion about semaphore at trainings - it was a requirement for Golden Hand. I believe the leaders had more problems than the brownies with it! "Show us a suitable alternative to teach hand and eye co-ordination and we'll replace it" was the reply for years. It is now an optional alternative, not a requirement.

Changes to suit changing times, progress - that is why we are called a movement. There have been brownies in Northland since 1927 and throughout the years brownie numbers have topped the guiding census list.

PACK HOLIDAYS

For most of those children lucky enough to have been on a pack holiday it has been the highlight of their brownie days. Northland's brownie leaders became aware of this extension to the programme during the sixties.

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In April 1979, Maunu Brownie Pack raised $36 for a new rubbish bin for Northland Regional Museum.

Girls from the Whangarei Primary School Brownie Pack sing to the residents of Kamo Home during December 1977.

WHANGAREI REPORT

Mavis Linnell recounts her memories:

"Worries and fears haunted me to begin with. There was no-one experienced in Northland, no earlier holidays to learn from, and so much to think about when planning my permit holiday - the theme, programme and equipment, food, kit lists and so on Would the venue I chose be approved by the tester? Did I have enough helpers?

I needn't have worried. Youth Haven at Parua Bay worked out fine. I had planned plenty for the girls to do, rain or shine. In spite of the brownie who assured me she usually had eight weetbix for breakfast there was plenty of food. Happy memories come flooding back of this and other pack holidays.

The excited chatter of the girls as they arrived. The walks along the beach and into the bush collecting handcraft materials, and the busy fingers making gifts to take back to Mum and Dad. Chores were not always popular. Fancy having to wash and dry dishes and tidy bedrooms every day. Lazy leader! I often wondered what parents thought when they read their daughter's log-book.

Skipping was a most popular activity, and the mother helper who could do double jumps was a star turn. My favourite story is of the brownie who, looking at her bowl of rhubarb set in lemon jelly, announced she didn't like rhubarb, could she just eat the jelly. We drew a line down the centre with her spoon. She ate one half, and enjoyed it so much she asked could she eat the rest. I'm not sure even now where the jelly and rhubarb separated.

Memories of the songs and stories around the open fire, then the quiet time for prayers before cocoa or Milo, and bed. An extra cuddle for anyone showing signs of homesickness. Then before we (the leaders) turned in, that hour of fellowship I always associate with guiding."

Today brownie leaders can enjoy taking their girls to Fern Haven at Trefoil Park for pack holidays. Mavis and her husband have donated a lovely big toadstool which is set in a grove of trees and shrubs. It is an ideal surrounding, and many girls have been thrilled by the magic of brownie pack holidays.

GUIDES

Once a guide, always a guide.

The age from 11 to 16 might well be the most difficult time in a young woman's life. It is a time when she is most vulnerable to outside influences and pressures. Guiding can help her find values and lead her into fun and action-filled outdoor leisure pursuits. Team spirit is developed through the patrol system; the promise and law encourage a healthy outlook and achievement is the goal.

Lorna Church relates some of her memories as a guide leader:

"At the time I was taking Tikipunga Guides on my own. One cold wet day in winter comes to mind. My guides had to walk to the meeting. Everyone turned up - wet coats and shoes were draped around the hall. Not one girl let the weather keep her away.

One of the happiest camps I held was on my sister's farm at Mangawhai. I took all my family with me. My husband Jack and the two youngest girls camped separately, apart from the main camp. The guides accepted him as another leader. It was the only camp I took that was completely free of homesickness.

One year I was able to farewell six 14-year-olds at an end-of-year function. In those days very few girls stayed until they were 14. That was very rewarding for me. My only regret is that I hadn't become a leader ten years earlier."

Most guides love to be challenged. Achievement is great for the ego. If you never make a mistake you never make anything - it's part of the course. Have another go! Make a rope ladder and use it. Bridge a stream. Boil a cup of water on a floating raft you've made yourself. Put up a tent blindfolded (team effort) - there are endless challenges.

I recall once when we were planning a parents' evening for the guides and each patrol was responsible for a part of the programme - greeting the guests, organising supper, running the entertainment, etc. An irate parent phoned me one evening:

"Do you realise how young my daughter is and you are expecting her to do this?" The girl concerned was a young leader and knew I was available if she needed help. "Let's give her the opportunity; she knows I'm beside her," I suggested quietly. The girl did a splendid job without my help - her mother wasn't there to see it.

Another guide came to us through a paediatrician. Her confidence in herself was nil. It was three months before she participated in activities. Two years later her leadership qualities were extraordinary. She carried on to be an achiever in adult life. It is events like these that demonstrate the worth of encouraging ability in youth.

The presentation of guide progressions has changed dramatically since we became a province in 1960. Back then New Zealand didn't have their own guide books, we worked along English lines - adaptation was the name of the game.

Discussions at the 1966 World Conference led to handbooks being printed especially for the New Zealand Guides. It was a giant leap forward - a handbook for leaders and a book each for the girls. These are now revised and reprinted as changing times and interests require.

In an effort to give each girl the opportunity of participating in something larger than her own district or province has arranged, Headquarters organise national events. These often include girls from overseas, so there is that sense of belonging to a family which has no boundaries. Guides also have camps. There will be memories of Rangitane - and the rain! Hastings in 1971; of the 1982 Jamboree at Rotorua and of course Waitangi held here in Northland in 1985, just to name a few.

Northland's guide membership is governed by the availability of leaders and the economic climate, along with the other minor things, but I believe there will always be a place for guiding.

SENIOR GUIDES

The Senior Guide programme for girls 14 to 16 years old was introduced in New Zealand during 1965. It was instantly popular for those who had grown out of the guide programme but were too young for rangers. There were a number of senior guide units through Northland, but with the changes in age groupings in 1968 they were phased out.

Ann Morgan (nee Crimp) recalls her days as a senior guide in Whangarei:

"I remember our leader, Mrs Mavis Bradbury, so well - she was such a fun person. We camped often under canvas and sometimes at her family bach at Little Munro Bay. Our programmes were flexible and varied, and she encouraged us to plan and execute our own ideas. I know we sang a lot and laughed a lot."

Ann went on to be a Queen's Guide and earn a gold Duke of Edinburgh medal, so there must have been some serious business too.

CAMPING

More than fifty percent of the replies to my request for guiding memories related to camping - unfortunately space does not allow me to include them in full. There is no doubt in my mind that it is the single most popular part of the programme for both leaders and girls. The following are a selection of those sent in:

Beth Frost wrote of a Warkworth camp taken by Ada Miller. A qualified chef was quartermaster. The menu included roast beef with stuffing balls, roast pumpkin and potatoes for forty. Ada took along her electric toaster because she had to have her early morning tea and toast. Beth also mentioned their camp at Tiping's farm with a lovely meandering stream nearby; the time everyone abandoned camp but Kath Little and herself. They stayed alone with the water steadily rising all around them.

Talking of rain... I remember the camp we had to move from Warkworth to Whangarei on the day everyone was due to arrive. A violent storm and the weather report of worse to come in lower Northland made the move necessary. It was back in 1965 and we were expecting over a hundred guides, including ten Pacific Island guests. We did it without a hitch.

Dot Cossar recalls Camp Cosmos at Waimate North in 1972:

"Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Mercury, and Saturn people invaded earth for a memorable week. UFOs (Unidentified Funny Objects) were the leaders' younger children under the care of Velma Kennett. A rangers camp nearby was the Milky Way, while Headquarters staff camped at the Satellite Station.

"Hurricane Carlotta, an unwelcome visitor, put 142 girls into a hall to "sleep" and all leaders on canvas duty through the night. Weary, but jubilant to have come through with no torn tents, we gave ourselves a longer rest period next day and then things were back to normal.

"How well I remember Margaret Gray's inspiring campfires, and the impromptu dressing up in the fashion of each camp's planet. Pam Carver, our first camp trainer, planned a programme with plenty of variety in fun and learning. This was my first big camp. I was nervous about QM-ing for a sub-camp of 27. I needn't have worried. I loved it and have camped ever since."

Verna Braddick was chairman of the regional committee for Explorer Camp, Waitangi, one of the national camps held in 1985. One thousand and sixty people living in a canvas world - among them friends from as far away as Hong Kong. The waves breaking on the sandy beach at Onewhero Bay could be heard each night. During the day water activities, hiking, and explorer bus trips - known as "the singing buses" - were enjoyed. Catering provided mountains of fresh fruit and vegetables, the dedicated staff lots of love and care - the recipe for success.

Camps are the source of the most funny, embarrassing, and "do you remember" stories. Here are a few:

There were the guides who challenged the leaders to a swimming race. The guides won - any leader who looked like winning was held under long enough not to be a threat.

A leader who took her guides for a weekend camp. The latrine site was duly chosen a suitable distance away, but she hadn't allowed for a king tide - half an hour before and after high tide they were cut off.

The leader's husband who put up a tent which wouldn't sit square. For three days they tried to fix it, then someone noticed it was inside out. How often does this happen? There was a Q.M. tent which caused problems for the same reason.

There was the girl who picked up a tent, tucked it under her arm and raced away to the far end of the site. It took four girls to carry it back.

What to do with a sack of cabbages kindly donated towards the end of camp - coleslaw wasn't very popular by then.

The girls who went to the farmer's freezer for the stewing steak but brought back dog's meat instead. No one knew until some days later - neither the campers nor the dogs had a problem.

There were the leaders who chatted too long over the kitchen fire each evening - the Q.M. gave them the next days potatoes to peel.

Did you hear of the guide who cleaned her teeth with insect repellent? Or the surfies who were preparing to join camp - they thought it was a beach camp.

A leader's brownie daughter learned to square lash. T crosses appeared everywhere. That was the tidiest camp ever - everything was hung up.

A deluge of rain - isn't that a familiar camp story - pots and pans floating down the swollen stream, leaders rushing to collect them before they floated out to sea.

Remember "the lion hunt" at campfires? There was the guide who really thought there was a tiger in the long grass during a hike. It was difficult to convince her otherwise.

Bless the Q.M. who produced an early morning cup of soup for the campers who had to evacuate camp because of flooding and sleep in the church.

I wonder if the leader, who was a guide at the time, remembers stitching up the camp commandant's pyjamas?

A leader's church minister kindly offered to use his trailer for transporting gear to the camp site. Four dozen eggs didn't carry so well over the bumpy road - every one was cracked. He was invited to stay for lunch - you've guessed it, everyone was served scrambled eggs. Faith restored!

Often leaders have cope with the unexpected. Claire Watts recalls a plague of army worms at a Whareora site, big black and yellow stains on everyone's ground sheets and anything else which touched the ground. Those stains never did come out.

Sybil Overton remembers the weather being so humid at one of her camps that the jelly wouldn't set. The girls didn't complain about cornflakes and runny jelly for breakfast.

Jenny Miller had a pleasant surprise at her test camp. The farmer on whose land she camped laid alkathene pipes on top of the ground from the water source to her camp some distance away. She had a constant supply of solar-heated water.

Above all else, from girls and leaders alike, the laughter, companionship and lasting friendships which are part of the camping situation are what we remember and cherish. We close with the words of a campfire song:

Camp camp camp's the place for fun
Camp camp camp's the place for learning
Be the weather fine or damp
We shall have a happy camp
And be sorry when our camping days are done.

Is there a guide or leader out there who doesn't agree?

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Erecting an overnight shelter from Teatree sticks and a canvas tarpaulin are, from left, Sue Phiskie, Paula Hesslegrave, Carol Powell and Marian Cullen, drive in a post while Tany Holmes-Kinsella arranges the canvas.

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Denise Foster covers her eyes in disbelief as Michelle McNeil, left, and Megan Peterson crack eggs into the pan to cook a tasty campfire breakfast for Radio Northland staff, October 1979.

From left back, Karen Smith, Robyn Smith and Heather Birnie, front, members of the Leigh Memorial Guide Company spring cleaning the Water Street Plunket Rooms as a community service, October 1968.

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Wendy Shuker, from Okaihau, and Carlie Eve, from Omapere, try their hand at canoeing.

NORTHERN NEWS

RANGERS

To teach to live, not merely to earn a living.

Girls, teenagers, young women - as their age range (13´ to 18) suggests - are asked to take their skills out into the community as service. Most rangers have graduated from guides and find that rangering gives them more freedom to plan and execute their own programmes. Like guides, rangers enjoy camping, but with a difference - they go lightweight camping. This involves tramping, usually for a full day, with packs on their backs. They set up camp in pup-tents and eat lightweight food. Next morning they break up camp, repack and set off again.

Rangers share decisions, ideas, learn more about the environment and enjoy the outdoors. Their sense of adventure may take them abseiling, canoeing or even flying. Their service within the community could include fire-fighting, civil defence, search and rescue or even Lifeline work.

Lorna Church recalls two camps the Tikipunga Rangers held giving 7 to 12 year old children from underprivileged homes a camping holiday. The children were selected by Social Welfare and sponsored by local businesses. Each two rangers were responsible for four or five girls. It was a learning experience for all. The rangers had no idea how sad the lives of some young people could be.

The extension of home-making skills might vary through child-care, home decorating, cordon bleu cooking. The choices are endless. The Sea Rangers, for example, cook and serve a four-course dinner to friends and parents at their annual meeting each year. The menus are well chosen, the cooking faultless, the tables set with their parents' best linen, china, silver and crystal. Each "watch" serves in turn, while the other joins the guests at each table.

I well remember one evening, sitting at the mayor's table, when the wine waitress appeared at his elbow, napkin over her arm, bottle poised. "Would you care to sample the wine, sir?" She poured the half inch required and waited. With a twinkle in his eye he lifted his glass and said, "What would you do if I said I didn't like it?" "I'd take it away, sir, but I can assure you I would bring another the same."

Ranger or venturer (their male equivalent) service projects, camps, outings or dances encourage them to extend socially in organised activities. Relationships and communication skills are developed during weekend Burgin courses - named for a well-known ranger leader and trainer of earlier days, Mona Burgin.

A ranger's investiture is important, and many interesting venues have been chosen for the occasion - a swimming pool, beside a waterfall, on top of the highest hill, on the deck of the Bounty when she was berthed at the Whangarei wharf, in a train, an aeroplane and even a jail!

Enterprise and camping are combined. Rangers will remember NIVRAC in 1988, ORBIT in 1990 and MOA in 1994 among others, all offering high adventure. The friendships born at such events are among their most lasting and cherished memories.

The Kerikeri 1st Northland rangers had the opportunity to meet the Malaysian High Commissioner at a function in Kerikeri in February 1993. She invited them to visit her consulate in Wellington. The girls, with great enthusiasm, set about raising funds to travel to Wellington. They informed the Malaysian commissioner of their proposed visit, and to their surprise were asked to stay with her and her daughter Alleena at their residence.

"With much excitement we arrived in Wellington and were warmly greeted by the High Commissioner herself accompanied by her daughter. The first night we were treated to a wonderful banquet of Malaysian dishes. We were given the opportunity to interview several of the embassy staff to learn more about the Malaysian people and their culture.

As most of us had not been past Auckland, we also managed to see the sights of Wellington and get in a little shopping. All in all a wonderful experience for us all."

Rangering helps guide a person from girlhood into womanhood. Those who wish to can achieve being a Queen's Guide. This qualification is recognised when applying for further education or a job. Unfortunately many potential rangers leave our province to continue their education elsewhere in the country, so our numbers are small. Nevertheless, they are a valuable branch of the guide movement.

"We all lived together in a Red Liner bus" (courtesy of the Beatles). Such was the camaraderie among the sisters and friends of the Shackleton Sea Scouts, whose enthusiasm and persistence led to the formation of a sea ranger crew. Because all commissioned New Zealand naval boats had already been adopted by New Zealand sea ranger crews, it was the crew's decision to accept, posthumously, Achilles as a name. HMNZS Achilles had been a cruiser lent to the Royal New Zealand Navy during World War II.

Under the leadership of Mary Kay, an ex-sea ranger and ranger captain, and with accommodation and expertise offered by the sea scouts, the girls set their goals on learning seamanship while remembering their girl guide principles. Sea ranger membership meant many chances to be involved with RNZ navy ship visits to Whangarei, and opportunities to compete in, and assist with, the local sea scout regattas.

The crew eagerly set about planning a gala day and collecting newspapers to raise funds to purchase a sea scout cutter. This was reconditioned and launched during November 1965. The Whangarei Harbour Board made available an old house adjacent to the Hatea River for a nominal rental and once again it was all hands to the task, the Ranger Service Star being an incentive to participate. Here was a practical opportunity to serve, decorate their own "ship" as well as having a place to meet and entertain in. Satisfied with their local surroundings, the crew decided to spread their wings and venture across the Tasman for a three week trip to a small part of the eastern coast of Australia.

Under the leadership of Dorothy West, thirty-two Northland rangers and guiders flew out of Auckland on 26 December 1966 for Sydney. This was a time when NZ$1 was worth A$1.24, and the return airfare was only $130.

The travellers soon realised that the standard of camping provided by the Red Line Bus Company was not up to that of the New Zealand Girl Guides. In no time the guides had educated the coach captain-cum-cook, and even the most primitive conditions became very acceptable - apart from the flies which appeared to prefer white rather than blue.

The tour took the rangers north along the New South Wales coast to Brisbane where television and radio interviews became the highlight of the day, pushing the sudden downpour of the previous evening into history. On up the Queensland coast, viewing snakes, koalas, the Glass Mountains and endless eucalypt trees (gums) to Gladstone. From there it was a short launch trip to a small undeveloped island (Quoin) and a startled reception. Girls!! They'd expected a bus load of boys.

Two days of sunshine, swimming, a glimpse of coral, and then it was the return trip through Toowomba, on to Canberra, the Blue Mountains, and back to Sydney for a few days' leisure, sight-seeing and shopping. During the tour there was time to meet many Australian rangers and guides, to visit Glengary Girl Guide Centre, and to understand, accept and appreciate fellow travellers as well as kindle a thirst for further travel. When a customs official asked us the purpose of the trip we replied, "Educational." "For whom?" he asked with a twinkle in his eye.

JUNIOR LEADERS

Junior leaders are not so much a separate branch, but are recognised for their youth within the band of leaders in the province. Their contribution to the pool of ideas, their forward thinking and shared views are valued both locally and at national level.

In 1995 the name junior leader was changed to Rangers In Leadership - RILS. This means they must be a member of a ranger unit while of ranger age.

CADETS AND GUIDE SERVICE RESERVE

Cadets and Guide Service Reserve never really got off the ground in Northland. I believe they were more suited to city-oriented provinces. Northland girls have to leave to attend university, training college or other higher education institutions. Nursing, which attracted many of our girls, kept them too busy to pursue their guiding interests. We never had more than five girls in either of these branches - too few to interest a leader or other girls.

From left, Jenny Birnie, Claire Hansen, Sue Crimp, and the late Pam Richmond leaving for their overnight-hike permit, December 1971.

From left, Vivien Brock, Donna Williams and Nyrene Menefy lightweight camping at Maromaku.

Noeline Nielsen of Omapere gets a taste of what gliding is like.

NORTHERN NEWS

Rachel Carruthers abseiling, 1992.

LONES

"Solae sed sodales" - lones but of a sisterhood.

Girls living in isolation or who for various reasons are not able to attend regular meeting can still enjoy the companionship of guiding through monthly "letters". The leaders use a lot of talent and imagination presenting the programme in magazine form. The girls contribute news and ideas, linking the lones into a group. Sometimes they may get together for a day or a camp - times of great fun and achievement.

There were lone peace scouts in the early 1920s, and a smattering of lone guides between 1926 and 1928, when the headmaster of the correspondence school advocated guiding as a form of recreation for his pupils. Lone guides have become Queen's Guides, and some have been selected to travel to international events. Northland lone secretaries were renamed advisers, and in 1992 commissioners. The following women gave years of service to the lones: Mrs G MacKinnon (1963-66), Kathleen Harrison (1966-80), Dorothy West (1980-

85), Jackie Addenbrooke (1985-88), Pam Crimp (1988-90) and Philippa Robertson (1990-94). Dorothy Burton continues in this office today.

Liz Bowker provides these thoughts on being a lone guide leader:

"I've been involved with lone guides in Northland since 1978, soon after we moved to Rawene. Since then I've had six provincial lone advisers to work with, all of them extremely supportive to me in my roll as lone guide leader.

It is quite different to being an "active" leader, which I have been in the past. Lone guides do most of their work by correspondence and I try to get a monthly "link" letter out to them. This is sometimes in the form of a "letter" in a clear file folder with pages of work, games, notes etc, which they keep 3 days and pass on or post to the next person on the mail list. Alternatively they get every month four sheets of double-sided A4 paper made into a booklet and photocopied for each individual girl.

For their part the girls are supposed to write to me once a month. Some girls are very good and tell me lots of news in their letters, others seldom write. We have a meeting at least three times a year. Sometimes we camp, which is always fun. We've had meetings in Whangarei and in the country, and also at Trefoil Park. These meetings are times when the girls get to know each other, which is very important. We do lots of work, and often the patrol leaders organise to do a patrol patch with their patrol.

For me, being a lone leader is very worthwhile. We've had several girls gain their Chief Commissioner's Badge and that is always a special time. So are the times of fun we have when we meet together. The enthusiasm of the girls and the support of

their parents and the lone adviser really keeps up my enthusiasm too. Being involved with the guides is a very rewarding experience."

Northland lones started camping in January 1963 at Marae Tui. Over the years they camped at many other sites - Banff St Den, Pahi, Marsden Point, Waikare Inlet, Waimate North, Kara, Broadwood, Kaikohe and Springfield to name just some. Occasionally they stayed indoors and at other times camped for activities. Riro Marrett, a popular lone leader in Northland during the 1960s and 70s, had a special love of camping. Here are some of the highlights, or unusual times she remembers:

In October 1968, enrolling two lones at Waipu by amateur radio through JOTA.

Taking nine Northland, one Auckland and four South Auckland lones, by train to Marton, for a national lone camp at Porewa, in January, 1969.

1970 saw the lones camping over Easter at the Rigden's farm in the Waikare Inlet. Also that year all the lone guides were in the Guard of Honour for the Royal family.

The "sardine" sleeping arrangements in the show building at Waimate North on the night of Cyclone Carlotta in January 1972 - nine of our lones were at that camp.

Evacuating camp in January 1976. We were camping with Sybil Overton, at Kara, when the stream topped the banks.

A year later we camped at Broadwood. The site was lovely, but, it's difficult to put tent pegs through asphalt! We later learnt that underlying the grassy surface were old tennis courts!

In May 1977 nine Northland lones (guides, rangers, and leaders) caught the train to Wellington for the 50th Jubilee of Lones, at Marsden College. Annie Catchpole came from Australia, despite the airline strike that was on at the time. We were on the news on TV the night of the dinner (the film crew had filmed various groups during the day, including Northland learning to set a map) but I never got to see the film!

All Northland guiding people were such a big help organising equipment and campsites for us. We couldn't have done it without them Lone guides always did well - I expected them to do their best, their families were terrific in their support, and Kathleen Harrison was always there with advice."

The lones gather at Tikipunga in June 1993.

EXTENSIONS

Originally called post guides, then the handicapped branch, these guides were disabled girls who lived in hospitals, or institutions. They did their guiding by letter with the help of their carers. In 1971 the name changed again to become the extension branch. Today these guides are known as the special needs branch and the guides are are integrated in other branches.

Blomfield School, a school for handicapped children in Whangarei, was the obvious choice as a base for the company, and the head teacher was very supportive of the idea. The company was registered for a short time in 1967, but it wasn't until 1968 that the unit operated on a permanent basis with Kathleen Harrison as leader, with the assistance of Doreen Fisher for most of that time. Jessie Miller, Heather Smith and various helpers continued into the 1980s.

Their activities were many and varied. The girls took their programme very seriously, and outings included farm visits, church parades and joining in with active company programmes. Camping was the favourite - working on the buddy system with guides of normal abilities, they shared responsibility in camp duties. It was an experience that benefited both branches.

In 1979 a ranger unit was established at the workshop attached to the school. Because of learning abilities, permission was granted to include girls between the ages of 18 and 23. Velma Kennett, with the help of Glynis Collins, ran this unit. These guides also loved camping, and even took a trip to Arahina, the guide training centre in Marton.

Regretfully the change of administration at the school and workshop made guiding redundant and both units closed in 1984. Since then it has been the policy of the association to admit extension girls into active units when requested and sometimes this happens.

Heather Meredith (nÇe Birnie) writes:

"At the age of forty, it is something of an exercise to reflect on experiences of my youth. As I watch my own sons grow I realise that we rarely appreciate experiences and opportunities when they arise, but rather by reflection and the impact that challenges of youth have on our adult life.

My overwhelming memories of my involvement with guides who were intellectually and physically impaired are of their courage, their humour, their willingness to accept any and every challenge, the commitment of family and guiders, the fun and companionship they gained from guiding. In fact it is my belief that at all times members of the extension branch epitomised the true meaning of guiding and provided a living example of the guide laws.

My involvement with the extension branch began with a talk by Mrs Hilary Haylock in 1969 as she toured New Zealand raising funds for `Operation Kangaroo' and spreading the word about `Guiding for the Handicapped' as it was

then called. I then attended a provincial camp at Whitford in Auckland which was to be the preparation and selection camp for `Operation Kangaroo'.

In January 1970 a group of 15 handicapped guides and their helpers travelled to Australia for an international camp. Camp Endeavour was held at Yarra Junction near Melbourne. The New Zealand handicapped contingent combined with a group of handicapped guides and helpers from throughout Australia, and some additional international guests from Asia.

The main Camp Endeavour was a large international camp about a kilometre away. The handicapped group had their own programme and did not integrate with the "active" guides at all. We were invited to a couple of entertainment activities but apart from that we were all but invisible to main stream active guides. After the camp we travelled for several days, visiting Canberra and Sydney. This was an exhausting but pioneering trip. Handicapped guides had not travelled outside New Zealand before.

In 1974 I was fortunate to be selected as one of two guiders to travel under a Juliette Lowe Fellowship to the USA for a conference on `Working with the Handicapped'. The American attitude to handicapped guides was in direct contrast to our own - their philosophy was one of mainstreaming with handicapped girls being fully integrated into active guide units.

Planting a rewarewa tree on June 13 ,1979, are from left standing, Andrea Morgan, Vicky Kerr, Cindy Strongman, ranger leader, Mrs V Kennett, Heather Jenkins, Pixie Baker and Julie Rudsdale. In the foreground are Caroline Harrison and Jean Studholme.

This exposed us to a whole new way of thinking and challenged many of the ideas we had accepted in the past.

The conference was held on the campus of the University of Pittsburg in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Johnstown is a mining town, a little larger than Whangarei. The university campus and accommodation was set amongst beautiful redwood trees in park-like grounds. Most of the young adults participating (all guiders) were from USA but included some international guests travelling on the Juliette Lowe fellowship - from Germany, Barbados, Iran, and Nigeria, and the two of us from New Zealand.

The conference was for a week, but the trip was a total of four weeks and included time in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. In each city Glenys and I stayed with host families and spent some time sightseeing and some being involved with local guiding groups.

My overwhelming memories of this trip were the hospitality and generosity extended by our hosts, the true meaning of the international sisterhood of guiding, my naivete, and the impact that different cultures and experiences had on my thinking. It was a most wonderful experience.

Guiding for the handicapped has changed considerably since 1969 - largely because of changes in the education system and the recognition that people with handicaps are more like active individuals that they are different. My life has been infinitely enriched by my involvement in the guiding movement. I am particularly grateful that I had the opportunity to learn about life through the experiences of those who might be considered to miss out, but in my experience they give far more to the life of others than we can ever give in return."

TREFOIL GUILD

Make new friends but keep the old.

The first record of an attempt to form a Trefoil Guild is in 1949, when Mrs Kathleen Harrison convened a meeting to this end. However, it was never formed. She tried again in 1957. Again it failed, and it wasn't until July 1967 that a guild was formed in Whangarei. There were ten members, with Mrs Colleen Hooper presiding and Mrs N. W. R. Horne secretary. However after little more than a year it closed, most of its members returning to active guiding.

Ten years later, in 1977, Mrs Eunice Monks made another attempt to form a guild, but this also lapsed through lack of sufficient interest. Then in 1979, as provincial commissioner, I issued a challenge to Mrs Mavis Tree - then a national council member - to form a lone guild which would reach out to the entire province. It opened with 13 members, and has grown steadily ever since - today we have around fifty members. The only lone guild in New Zealand, it is open to guiding people throughout New Zealand who have no local guild - but only a few have taken the opportunity to join.

The chairperson and the adviser put together a bi-monthly newsletter "Trefoil Topics" which includes family and personal news of members, happenings in each area, and guild news. This is posted with a copy of the active branch magazine, so we are kept up-to-date with everything that is going on in guiding in Northland. We have links with guilds in both Australia and England.

In 1989 Northland hosted the annual North Island gathering of guilds. It was held at Snell's Beach, Warkworth, and the theme was the beach and the ocean. As this book goes to print, members are preparing to host again in 1996.

Continuing service is the aim of all guild members. Many have strong affiliations with their church, St John's Ambulance, Red Cross, Craft and Care (sometimes called CMA) for older people, meals-on-wheels, driving the aged and infirm to clinics,....the list is endless, and no one knows about the quiet one-to-one caring that goes on in each member's neighbourhood.

The guide promise and law are the binding link. Whether friendships were made over the years during active guiding or with members who have more recently come into Northland from other provinces the bond is there. The A.G.M. of August 1994 agreed that the southern part of the province - Warkworth and surrounding areas - would become an active guild but remain affiliated to the Northland Lone Guild.

We make the effort to travel to other parts of the province for a social day together occasionally, to Trefoil Park once a year for a working bee, and to Whangarei for the provincial A.G.M. (which is followed by the Trefoil Guild A.G.M. and a dinner). Members from Warkworth in the south and Kaitaia in the north travel very long distances to these meetings. The effort they must make to accomplish this is not small especially for those who are no longer "spring chickens." These times are very special, and the bonds of guiding stay with us. There are no strangers, only friends we have yet to meet.

Guild members Jan Jessiman, Ruth Hewitson, Dot Cossar, and Pat Adams.

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Once called local associations (or LAs in guiding jargon), the name was changed to support committees in the mid-1980s. Parents elected from each unit in a district provide support for the leaders of that district, and the district commissioner chairs their meetings. Support committees provide not only financial support, but ideally physical assistance as well when needed. Many times their interest has led to members becoming leaders themselves who have carried on long after their own children have grown up. Camps, pack holidays, outings and special gatherings on a district, division or provincial level are grateful for the help parents provide. Leadership training relies on support committees for financial help. They are an important link in the chain which makes up the smooth running of the organisation.

Many years ago, when I was a district commissioner and our local newspaper had more room and time for chatty articles, I well remember their report on an Annual General Meeting I chaired. It went something like this:

"Mrs West, who lives in the south of Whangarei, chaired the meeting. Mrs East comes from the north end of town. She was elected secretary. The name of the district - Central Whangarei."

GUIDELINE

In 1984 the Northland province pioneered a life skills programme through the Labour Department to help train young unemployed people. Margaret Fromont did a great job in organising and running the programme. Ann Shaw helped survey and set up the Junior Executive courses while other leaders made up the team for the life skills courses.

Ours was the first of a course of three S.T.E.P.S. programmes designed to build confidence and self-esteem in girls with multiple problems, some suffering deeply from unhappy home circumstances. For six weeks they moved through a series of courses - personal grooming, car maintenance, budgeting, food preparation, interview skills, mother-craft or parenting and basic sewing were a few. How proud they were to actually cut and sew a sweat shirt for themselves. Most had never used a sewing machine. A third programme included boys.

Political changes directed the course into a more professional field. Tutors were employed to teach computer and office management skills to men and women aged from 15 to 55, and with a variety of backgrounds - from some on parole to others recently widowed. Some entered jobs directly as a result of this programme.

Finally, after seven courses ranging in length from three to twenty-six weeks a tightening of government funding caused them to cease. What many participants did not realise was that the courses were based on the guide programme - an extension of traditional guiding serving a very real need in the community.

GUIDE SHOP DEPOT

Northland was the guinea pig province for this scheme. In 1985 we were asked by Headquarters to set up a depot for goods which up to this time were sold only in main city guide shops. It meant finding a suitable venue at as little cost as possible and someone to run it. That wasn't easy.

Finally Heather Smith agreed to set aside a room in her home for this purpose, to open two days a week and at other times by appointment. Catalogues were sent out to all members and mail orders were taken. This was ideal for our rural province, and for a while it was a lucrative undertaking.

Then the economic downturn caused changes to be made in the shopping structure. All mail orders had to go through Headquarters in Christchurch, with a few depots being allowed to remain for personal shoppers only - Northland was one of these. This had a drastic effect on sales as most of our orders were by post,- however Heather has continued to give good service, and profits still cover running costs. Ten years on it remains a part of Northland's guiding scene.

TREFOIL PARK

In 1980 two hectares of land in a rural valley between Whangarei and Kaikohe was offered to Northland guiding for a campsite by a family who wishes to remain anonymous. Members of the provincial executive with an engineer and a surveyor visited the site. After driving over 965 metres of rough farm track in from the road, they looked out onto the land in question. The fences were broken down and a low boggy patch spread in the centre of the field. On the positive side, there were some lovely large shady trees, and a safe stony creek running around the edge. Another advantage was that the site wasn't easily seen from the highway - a very real plus in these days of vandals and hoodlums.

A serious discussion ensued. It took no imagination to visualise the problems - the large sums of money needed to develop the site, the hard physical work ahead - and it wasn't easy to ignore the thistles, barberry and rushes. However, camping being the heart of outdoor guiding, we couldn't turn down such a generous gift that would provide future generations of guides with their own camping base.

We had a vision - development might take years, we knew, but each step would be an achievement. What we hadn't allowed for was the generosity of so many people and organisations that followed.

The land was legalised and a sub-committee formed. A competition was held for a name - Landa Quinn a Raumanga leader suggested Trefoil Park, and Trefoil Park it became. A conservation covenant was placed over an adjoining 80 hectares of native bush known as McGregor's Gully. With free use of that, and the stream which meanders down the valley and through Trefoil Park, we are provided with a wonderful area for adventure activities.

During 1981 plans were made for fund-raising. Divisions were encouraged to plan events such as gala days, concerts, etc. Girls baked biscuits and made sweets, held dinners and found fun ways to help. A recipe book was produced, the province asking far and wide for favourite recipes. Six thousand copies of "Trefoil Treats" raised enough money to buy a 20 ft by 30 ft garage. Business contractors upgraded the access road and spread gravel, all donated at no cost to us. Such generosity was astounding. Now the real development could begin.

In 1982 working bees were the order of the day. A service club contributed a large concrete water tank, another the foundations and a ramp for the hut. One guiding couple gave the timber for the floor and laid it. Another couple donated 500 battens that added to the fencing materials given by a service club, which also provided the labour. A kitchen with sink, bottled gas cooker, and lots of shelving was completed, and a request made for pots, pans, cutlery and crockery to stock the cupboards. We were in business.

Pathfinders' Camp, a leaders' training, was the first camp held at Trefoil Park. What a joyous occasion that was. Audrey's Song, sung to the tune of When I Grow Too Old to Dream, tells of the fun:

When I get too old to camp, I'll have this to remember
My hottie burst at Trefoil Park, When I camped in December.
My bed is all wet, My feet they are all cold,
But I will remember it when I get to be old.
When I get too old to camp, I'll have this to remember.
The thistles they were everywhere, When I camped in December.
My toes they were all sore, I've sat on one I'm sure.
But one thing I can tell, you know I'll be back for more
So come fill up the urn, And we can take a turn,
At grubbing thistles, Digging lats,
And watching cookies burn — (apologies to QM and Verna)

The entrance gates and railings were donated in 1983 by the Trefoil Guild. Today blue agapanthus make an attractive feature of it. The guild meet each year to clear and maintain the entrance. The lone and extension branches gave the flagpole, and a wheel-barrow (a most useful gift) came from a service club. A Headquarters loan enabled us to install a septic tank and five flush toilets.

Over the years a nucleus of hard-working guiding people and their husbands went home many weekends with tired muscles, aching backs, and blisters on their hands. Who could believe so much could be achieved by so few? With the first stage of development complete plans, for a grand opening camp went into action. T-shirts and blanket patches were approved and printed to marked this important milestone in our provincial history.

On 21 January 1984 two hundred guides, thirty-six leaders and twenty rangers took part in an exciting and varied programme at the Camp of the Marsden Cross. The rain poured down all morning, with gumboots and rain gear the order of the day. Parents and friends began to arrive. We assembled umbrellas for the official party, and then, half an hour before the ceremony was about to begin a watery sun looked down on us. It decided to stay. Joye Evans, New Zealand Chief Commissioner, arrived by donkey cart to open the park officially, and the Reverend Gwen Needham - an ex-brownie leader - dedicated it.

There was only one hiccup, at the most serious moment of the opening ceremony - flag break. There were three flags on separate gadget poles. Come time to break the centre flag - the pole collapsed! After the ceremony happy campers proudly took their visitors on a tour of inspection and served afternoon tea. Northland guiding - and especially those who had worked so hard to make the occasion possible - enjoyed a glow of satisfaction that evening.

With the celebrations over it was back to work, as clearing and maintenance continued. An outside sink and two gas-fuelled water heaters were added. A planting of donated native trees ended in disaster - sheep grazing the site gate

crashed the sacking protection and ate the lot. But by now we were ready to let the site out to schools and other organisations, and had pamphlets printed to this end.

In 1985 further donations of money and labour enabled a safe, all-weather cook-out to be built, and a second septic tank was added to service it. A patch of barberry and rubbish was cleared across the stream and replaced with a grove of kowhai trees. Each division and province took part in the ceremony to mark conservation week. May Hopkirk, executive director for New Zealand guiding was guest of honour and helped with the planting.

Three gas rings helped speed and efficiency in the kitchen, and gates to keep stock out of the cook-out, were added by a guiding husband. Camp Goldrush, a lone and training camp, proved to be a happy event that year.

1986 saw two porta-cabins, no longer required for their original purpose, donated to the park. One is ideal for sleeping quarters or a meeting room; the other has four showers, five toilets and 16 stainless steel hand basins with a cupboard large enough to store tents and camping gear at one end.

The firms responsible not only transported them to the site but positioned, refitted and painted them. Between the cabins a wide entrance with floor and roof is invaluable for wet-weather gear. In addition to these they donated a second concrete water tank, and a 10-kilowatt generator in its own shed. What a magnificent gift - a Thank You barbecue conveyed our appreciation.

In 1987 a provincial Thinking Day Gala was so well attended that we ran out of food! The programme included an orienteering course in McGregor's Gully, successfully completed by all participants. The original garage was given its plaque Dorothy West Hut and Joyce Ryan, Whangarei's mayor officially opened the new complex called Fern Haven. During this year McGregor's Gully was gifted to Northland Girl Guides by the original donors of the camp site. Lucky us!

Work continued. Concrete paths and steps were laid; the basics for a permanent orienteering course started, and planting for a brownie grove around the large concrete toadstool. Financial donations bought twenty rubber mattresses for the "sleep-in". The combined efforts meant that companies and the district were enjoying the facilities more and more. At last the great band of workers had time to relax.

During the following years there were still a few working bees - constant maintenance was needed to paint, and to clear successive crops of thistles and plant trees. 1989 saw pine trees planted in parts of McGregor's Gully. In 1990 a violent storm eroded the banks of the stream - willows were planted to prevent further damage. A cool room was built, and the army came for a week's visit leaving the legacy of a permanent confidence course and a good solid bridge across the stream. In 1991 a wide verandah was added to Fern Haven, more concrete paths and two permanent fireplaces added to the site. To mark 75 years of brownies in New Zealand, the brownies planted 75 trees along the far fence-line.

So ended ten years of development at Trefoil Park. Successive generations of campers owe a deep debt of gratitude to the original givers of the land, to the many generous donors of material gifts, and not least those who gave so many hours of manual work. Collectively they have created a delightful, magical place.

NORTHERN NEWS

New Zealand's Chief Commissioner for Guides, Joye Evans, arriving by donkey cart to officially open Trefoil Park at Mangakahia, on Saturday 21 January, 1984.

THE SHIRLEY CRAWFORD MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The chapel at Trefoil Park was dedicated to the memory of Shirley Crawford (nee Pearson) on 25 February 1995. Shirley started out as a guide and young leader in Otago province (Tainui, Dunedin). In 1953 at the age of 17 she moved to Wellington, continuing her leadership in Wallisville for the next four years. During this time she gained her diploma for training (brownie branch). She then went overseas for two years.

Returning to New Zealand, Shirley continued her brownie work in the Waikato (Claudlands, Hamilton). She married Ian Crawford in 1962 and they moved to Northland. Here Shirley worked with brownies in Moerewa from 1963, taking time off when her children were babies but continuing her interest in the movement, helping with training.

She was appointed district commissioner in the Bay of Islands in 1972. Moving to Mangamuka, she was then district commissioner for North Hokianga 1973-74. She was then appointed division commissioner in the Mangonui division 1975-79. During these years she maintained her camper's license and pack holiday permit, and in addition became a commissioner trainer as well as continuing to work with children. Due to the isolation of their farm she turned to the lone branch, firstly to rangers, then finally to her first love in guiding, brownies.

The late Shirley Crawford.

Shirley's sincerity and delightful personality endeared her to all from the youngest brownie to the most mature leader. In 1987 she was awarded the "Fern" in recognition of her outstanding services to guiding.

A neighbour and close friend, Shirley Brockie, remembers:

"In the late 1960s, in the days when we took over the Homestead Hotel at Kerikeri for week-end trainings, Shirley was in mufti since she was a busy young mother. Always willing, she joined our very small training team to help. I recall vividly her session on brownie promise and law, flags and emblems; her buzz groups, modeling saints in coloured dough, making flags with brightly coloured card, often talking while her small son Keith was fast asleep on her knee.

Many years later, at our first camp at Trefoil Park she set up and manned the "Duty to God" tent; how very popular it was with the girls. Her imaginative charts, games and activities and her friendly sincerity drew them like a magnet. Duty to God was very important to Shirley.

Tragedy struck when Shirley and Ian lost their home and all their belongings in a fire. Shortly after they moved from near Kerikeri to the western side of the island at Omahuta. Shirley took a full part in helping Ian run the farm. Milking, tractor work, she was a very active partner, but still found time for her church, her garden, school committee etc. - and guiding!

Their farm was ideal for guide camps, and their home knew the joy of brownie week-ends. The lones in the northern region were lucky girls to have experienced the fun and adventure her programmes provided. She loved nature. There was an exciting compass trail over their farm with cool lemonade for all at the end. She had made coloured sashes to distinguish "boys" from "girls" when teaching folk dancing. Cooking, handcrafts ... There was no end to her talents, or to her skills in making them exciting.

Her ability as a commissioner and commissioner trainer were equally skilled. Always she was quiet and serene. She coped with the impossible, her gracious manner and 100% hospitality endearing her to all who were privileged to know her.

Tragically illness cut her life short. She faced her approaching death with the same calm serenity she had shown through life, and passed on during October 1988. Once, in concluding a commissioner training session, she quoted this:

Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.
Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.
Just walk beside me and be my friend.

Shirley Crawford was a very special person."

TREFOIL PARK SONG

(Tune: It's a Small Small World)

It's a camp of laughter, a camp of fun
And a camp of friendship for everyone
If you're a Girl Guide
Then the gates open wide
Won't you come on, come
Trefoil Park is the place to be
Trefoil Park is the place to be
Trefoil Park is the place to be
It's for you and me.

When we wake each day there are chores to do
Then there's games and hikes when the work is through
If you're a Girl Guide
Then the gates open wide
You can join us too.

CHORUS
Then our campfire glows in the evening
It is story time and our voices ring
If you're a Girl Guide
Then the gates open wide
Come on let us sing.

INTERNATIONAL GUIDING

Through guiding many bridges are built, doors opened - linking sisters world-wide. it starts with brownies who love to dress in colourful costumes and play games from other countries. Guides and rangers may learn different customs, recipes, even a few words of another language. They may welcome overseas guests to their meeting, or make friends with them at camps. A few lucky ones travel to an international event.

Marion Ball, who went to Our Chalet in 1965, was the first Northland Guide to visit a world home. Claire Watts (nee Hansen) joined a Juliette Lowe conference at Our Cabana in 1981 as a ranger:

"Arriving in Mexico City in the middle of the night, speaking very little Spanish and very tired after a 24-hour trip, I was somewhat bewildered. We were waved through customs, thank goodness, piled into a minibus, and whisked through the crowded streets of Mexico City not really knowing whether the driver even understood our destination. With relief we recognised the guide world flag outside Ticalli Guide Hostel. The next five days were a whirlwind of strange and exciting sightseeing. Standing on top of the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan, I became aware of ancient civilisations that living in New Zealand had not prepared me for. Wow!

Claire Watts and other international guiders playing the Maori stick game at Our Cabana.

We were joined by delegates at Ticalli from several other countries, and travelled out to Our Cabana by bus. Cool stone buildings beautiful bougainvillaeas - but watch out for the scorpions, no bare feet! Thirty delegates from nineteen countries, overcoming language barriers and realising the common bonds of the world family of guiding.

Memories of our busy week there include:

Debating the challenges of a new decade - the role of women, the environment, hunger.

Learning to barter at markets - the Mexican delegates taught us well.

A woman in a Mexican vegetable market who looked twice her age - she worked 15 hours a day six days a week to support six children after her husband had abandoned her.

The contrast between the very rich and the very poor - there seemed to be very few in a middle range in this town.

Hillsides of shacks of corrugated iron and cardboard but each with a T.V. aerial.

The insecurity of being in a country where armed police are at every bus stop and houses have barred windows, locked gates, and high walls with broken glass and barbed wire along the top. We had to lock our dormitories at Our Cabana whenever we were in another part of the complex even though it was surrounded by a high security wall.

Not using tap water for drinking or washing teeth at Ticalli. I dreaded doing just that without thinking.

Food wastage was unforgivable. Take only what you want, leave nothing on your plate.

My English friend who longed for a plain boiled egg after so much Mexican food.

Checking beds, clothes and shoes for creepy crawlies at all times

The Johnny Appleseed grace seems to herald rain wherever I'm in camp. We sang it here and it rained for four days after a three-month dry spell.

The fun of a Mexican fiesta night, international food and dress, Mexican music and breaking a pizata we had helped to make, and sharing the gifts we had brought from home. The Maori stick game was a specially popular shared activity.

And finally the closing ceremony, the sad parting with friends but the excitement of returning home, appreciating New Zealand.

Fourteen years later I look back on this wonderful experience with gratitude to guiding. I grew so much in my understanding. Our deliberations were deep and relevant to the age we live in. I realised girls and women of our separate countries have the same concerns for the present and the future. I learned much about Mexico's culture - so different from our own - and I realised that the world-wide organisation of girl guides and scouts can contribute to world harmony. Thank you, guiding."

Ann Shaw was selected to join a group of four New Zealanders attending an Asian Pacific seminar at Sangam, India, in 1977. This was an opportunity for a Northland guider to see the result of what had been a major fundraising activity. Some months before Northland guiding had been challenged to a sun flower competition. The idea was for each guiding person in Northland to be issued with 4 sunflower seeds. These would be grown and nurtured by that person, who would also gain sponsorship for its growth from another source - parents, schools, even rugby teams.

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Jenny Payton with her 3.40 metre sunflower in January 1976.

Sunflowers grew everywhere and sponsorship came in the form of five to ten cents per centimetre of growth.

It was fun and raised what in those days, was a large amount of money, some $1000 in total. A major part of this money went to provide a new water tank at Sangam and the balance paid for a bicycle for trainers in Thailand.

So Ann went to check it out. While there she had the opportunity to visit villages and colonies and assist with service work in the community. The experience gave her the incentive to enthuse other leaders to apply to go overseas.

Since then many other girls and leaders have attended international events through guiding. They gained wonderful memories, and lifelong friends to warm their hearts and enrich their lives.

Deb Bunton (nee Church) was one of the first young guides to leave New Zealand to attend an Australian camp. She wrote:

"The year was 1979. I was 14 years old and standing in the midst of thousands of women and girls from all around the world. The experience of a lifetime, one I will never forget. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to be part of something so big and to have met people from so many walks of life. To have represented my country, and to tell others about it, makes me very proud indeed. Most of all I treasure the friendships I made.

Fifteen years later I still have contact with four of those very dear friends and I hope we will remain close for many years to come. To me this is what guiding was all about, and I hope today's girls have the same opportunities. I thank guiding for my cherished memories and for the experiences it has given me."

In 1985 Catherine Starr travelled to Japan as a representative of the New Zealand Girl Guides Association along with three girls from other parts of the country.

"We were going to attend an international camp at the Togakushi Camp Centre as part of Japan's anniversary celebrations for their membership to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. During the week-long camp I made many friends - some of whom I still keep regular contact with - from Japan and other countries. We participated in many activities, but my most vivid memory is the unnatural fear Japanese girls have for any kind of bug, no matter how small.

"We were billeted into Japanese homes for the second week of the trip. This opened our eyes to the differences in their lifestyle, including the wearing of slippers indoors, eating with chopsticks, and the strange toilets which involve squatting at floor level rather that sitting as we do. The highlight of this week was a trip to the 1985 Expo being held in nearby Tsukuba. Apart from developing a very low tolerance for rice - hardly surprising seeing we were given it three times a day - I had an amazing time and would recommend these camps to anyone who has the opportunity to go to one."

Catherine's sister Robyn earned her wings at flying school as a ranger. Following this the chance to travel was offered her.

"I had the great opportunity to travel to the USA. and attend a Girl Scout "Wider Opportunity". The year was 1989, and Rachel Blake from Rotorua and I flew the big skies to attend "Space Odyssey" - a look at careers in aviation and space travel for women.

We spent five weeks in all in America. Ten days billeted in San Francisco, ten days in Orlando with a family and the rest of the time at the University of Florida with sixty-five American girl scouts and three Indian Girl Guides. One of the memorable things was the chance to make lots of new friends and share the experiences we had together. Our days were kept busy travelling around the countryside visiting many airports and of course N.A.S.A.

"This was a great chance to see the American space programme in action. We even got to see the launching of Space Shuttle Columbia. We waited six hours for take-off but you can't imagine the excitement of that moment.

"It was not all work however. We did have fun at Disneyworld, the Epcot Centre and Sea World, three of the biggest fun parks in the world. This trip was an amazing opportunity to see how the other half lives and how the girl scout organisation works. I would like to thank the New Zealand Girl Guide Association for this chance of a lifetime which would never have come my way without guiding."

As well as visiting overseas we receive many international guiding visitors here. Among our those I remember well are:

Mildred Widgery, whose shoes were quite worn out when she arrived at my home. She'd travelled through New Zealand dancing her way into the girl's hearts, teaching happy steps.

Jai Bhairo who confessed later that our beds were too soft for her. She put her blankets on the floor mat to sleep.

Madeline Gita whose small, isolated island in the Solomons had no electricity. A vacuum cleaner and an electric stove were terrifying monsters to her.

A Japanese guest who lived in a very industrial part of her country. Aged 35, she had never seen a star - pollution had hidden them from her. Imagine her wonder at seeing a clear night sky for the first time. Before she left she could identify the Southern Cross.

A Sri Lankan friend who came with her was too afraid to go on a bush walk. "But what about your snakes and tigers?" she enquired. It was difficult to convince her that our forests were safe.

There are thousands of memories - everyone who has been touched by the joy of international guiding has them.

THE INTERNATIONAL SHIELD

This is a wooden shield of Singapore's guiding crest, given to Dorothy West during a visit to that city in 1980. Dorothy in turn gave it to the Northland province to be competed for - on an international theme - by brownies, guides and rangers each year.

Part of the entertainment from the Commissioners at Massey University in January 1980.

Australian guide Stephanie Gorm, walking a rope bridge at Camp Waitangi.

Australians, bet Smitherman, Marjorie Lane and Pat Kirkpatric were Northland's guests prior to the conference.

EVENTS OVER THE YEARS

1960

First Executive meeting 20 August.

1961

First Annual General Meeting 21 September.

1962

Northland adopted the balcony room at Arahina. Paid ú6 (about $12) for three eiderdowns! After much discussion the Marsden Cross was chosen for our provincial badge.

1963

Thirty-six leaders attended our first provincial residential training held at The Homestead, a private hotel in Kerikeri.

Girls made gifts for Samoan and Fijian Guiding.

Twenty-six girls, with a leader, travelled to Christchurch for the Handicraft Festival. They performed the Maypole with distinction, repeating it at a public performance in the Christchurch Town Hall

1964

Sea Rangers S.R.S. Achilles commissioned.

1965

After an international trainers' gathering at Lincoln, eight Pacific Island trainers camped with us at Parua Bay.

One hundred girls attended our first provincial camp.

Senior Guides began.

1966

Blomfield School Extension Guide Company opened.

Mary Hopkirk did ten day's travelling training - D West (Guide) and P Carver (Camp) the first qualified trainers from this.

Twenty-seven rangers and five leaders took a three week trip to Australia.

1967

Mrs Turnbull, Chief Commissioner, and Miss Isles, HQ General Secretary, visited Northland. Held adult gathering at Waitangi Hotel.

Two bus loads of rangers, guides and leaders took the "Heritage Trail" to Christchurch.

A Trefoil Guild started in Whangarei, but lasted less than two years.

Lady Baden-Powell visited Auckland. Four hundred Northlander guides and leaders went down in buses and slept in a hall!

1968

Rodney Division joined newly formed North Shore Province, the new southern boundary of northland being Puhoi Creek.

Leased Glorit School for camping (near Helensville on the west coast) but it was too isolated - discontinued lease in 1969.

1969

Age groups changed. Senior Guides phased out.

Mrs Turnbull was guest of honour at a gala day held to celebrate Lady Baden-Powell's 80th birthday.

National lone camp held at Arahina

1970

Ada Miller retired after ten years as provincial commissioner.

The new programme based on New Zealand conditions was introduced.

1971

Dorothy West became provincial commissioner, warrant dated 3 March.

Bata Buns, a national baking competition for brownies was a great success.

National camp "Rangatani" at Hastings was well represented from Northland.

The provincial commissioner attended a garden party at Government House, Auckland for Princess Alexandra.

1972

One hundred and forty girls and thirty leaders were almost were blown into space by hurricane Carlotta at Camp Cosmos, Waimate North.

1973

A knit-a-thon produced more that $1000 and 62 peggy square blankets for Lesotho.

Made four hundred ditty bags for Fiji following hurricane Bebe.

A five-day adventure live-in was enjoyed by one hundred guides at Lupton House, Whangarei.

Red Shield units closed.

1974

Seven guests from Western Samoa, Indonesia, Japan and Sri Lanka came north after G.A.P. an international trainers gathering.

Karen Farrell (HQ-trainer) covered all districts in three weeks here.

Ann Crimp was our first gold Duke of Edinburgh, (completed while doing nursing training in the Waikato). She received her certificate at Buckingham Palace.

Claire Watts earned her Rothman's Flying Award, and Sue Crimp her gliding wings.

1975

Guiding was invited to form a Guard of Honour for the royal family at Waitangi under the direction of the navy - we did, in our hundreds!

Forty girls took advantage of expert tuition in singing, instruments or dance.

This preceded "Song Safari" a national event in Christchurch. Bus loads sang their way down.

1977

Lady Baden-Powell passed on. Commemoration services were held throughout the province.

A cookout challenge, a family picnic at Marsden Cross, and our first publicity week.

1978

A free year! We called it "Courtesy Year".

1979

Tonga celebrated their jubilee year with a devastating earthquake. Many parcels and $230 were sent from Northland.

Swimming togs sent to Sangam.

The national camps of the green trefoil were held. Our girls went to Hamilton.

Lone Trefoil Guild began.

1980

Dorothy West retired as provincial commissioner, Heather Gubb took over.

"Wider Opportunity" for adults. Fifteen went to Penang and Singapore.

1981

Trefoil Park was given to guiding

Recipe book compiled for fund raising

Farewell lunch for Mrs Kathleen Harrison

Twenty-first birthday celebrated with three campfires run by Ann Shaw and the birthday luncheon in Whangarei

1982

Ada Miller died in March

Jamboree 82 national camp

1983

Five hundred blue and gold balloons fly on Thinking Day

1984

Pippins began

Camp of the Marsden Cross and the opening of Trefoil Park

1985

Waitangi National Camp.

Guide shop opened at Heather Smith's home.

Kathleen Harrison died in November.

1986

Liz Williams appointed National Ranger Adviser.

"Try It" brownie/pippin club running at Maunu Health Camp

1987

McGregor's Gully added to Trefoil Park and Fern Haven building complex completed.

Joan Wilson died October.

1988

Horowhenua Jamboree National Camp and NIVRAC National Ranger event.

Robyn Starr earned flying wings and scholarship to NASA Space Centre, Florida.

Heather Gubb retired as provincial commissioner and Sybil Overton took over.

Shirley Crawford died October.

1989

Provincial camp APAC.

Revised provincial badge.

Trefoil Guild hosted North Island gathering

"Guidelines" programme discontinued.

1990

Orbit - national ranger happening

"Fire to Feast" challenge

1991

Provincial camp "Love" weekend at Otimai.

Provincial church parade held in Christ's Church, Whangarei. The church overflowed.

1992

Judy Baird, chief commissioner launched new "Guide to Guiding" to replace P.O.& R in Northland.

1993

Pam Carver died in May.

1994

Sybil Overton retired and Beverley Francis took over as provincial commissioner.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEARS

THE MAYPOLE DANCE - 1963

It was a national festival of guiding. Each province was challenged to prepare an item to take to Christchurch. We wanted ours to be colourful, but not too difficult as the girls would be drawn from different parts of the province and have problems getting together for practices.

Once we had chosen the music and defined the movements, we had a handyman father make a portable pole and bought yards of blue and red taffeta for the ribbons. The girls came together for a weekend. No fishing line ever got into a worse tangle - it was frustrating and hilarious.

Dance and fun activities alternated over that weekend. Girls who came together as strangers returned home as a united group. They enjoyed the challenge. Costumes came next. The "boys" wore white shirts, black shorts, white knee socks and black shoes, red or blue sock tabs and crossed neck ties. The "girls" were in white tee-shirts and red or blue full circle skirts appliqued with huge flowers of the contrasting colour - they looked fresh and pretty.

We found a ranger who played the piano accordion. She learned the sequence of music needed and accompanied them for the final rehearsal. The performance at the festival was so impressive that they were selected, along with top items from other provinces, to perform in the Christchurch Town Hall to a full house public audience. Thirty years later they still remember it.

THE HERITAGE TRAIL - 1967

Two bus loads of guides and leaders left Whangarei bound for Christchurch, visiting historic sites on the way and meeting people who had fascinating stories of the early days to tell. They learned to make butter and spin wool, about cooking in a camp oven and living in a tin whare in the bush. Guiding folk from all provinces came together in Christchurch to share experiences before they flew home.

LADY BADEN-POWELL'S VISIT TO AUCKLAND - 1967

Who of the four hundred girls and leaders who travelled to this event could ever forget it? It seemed an impossible task. We had to stay overnight somewhere, get everyone to Rugby Park, and deliver them all safely home again. A large hall at Blockhouse Bay was our sleeping quarters. Well, some slept - some of the time! Each group brought their own

evening meal, breakfast and cut lunch. On the way down we ordered fish and chips for picking up the next evening - individually wrapped - boxes marked buses 1 to 9 with the correct orders in each. We prayed for an efficient cook.

A choir-master organised massed singing, and flag bearers practised. Thousands of girls, masses of brown and blue, a buzz of excitement. Everyone there will remember the chief guide, who was 78 years young, a truly remarkable lady.

For most Northlanders this was their first experience of the larger family of guiding - a little overwhelming, but the fish and chips were ready, correct and piping hot!

Jenny Miller (nÇe Taylor) whose mother, Madeline was a national brownie adviser, remembers:

"The two uniformed cubs from a country area who proudly took the field and danced with their pack. The brownie lost at lunchtime and tearful because Brown Owl's taken them all to the zoo - actually it was the loo!

Joining the queue, snaking beneath the stand with my mother afterwards to shake Lady BP's hand, only to have her pounce on us with `I remember you two - you visited me at Hampton Court.' We had intended to pass unnoticed but reckoned without her fantastic memory!"

CELEBRATING LADY BADEN-POWELL'S 80TH BIRTHDAY - 1969

Kamo Intermediate School was the venue for a gala planned to celebrate this occasion. Mrs Turnbull, chief commissioner at that time, and Miss Marie Isles, national secretary, were our guests. Months of planning and preparation unfolded into a truly international day of singing and dancing. Girls, presenting their districts' Thinking Day money enclosed in gold bags, were dressed in national costumes and dropped their offerings into a flower-decked, blue-lined cane clothes basket. A wide variety of static displays filled the hall.

There were two or three maypole dances by Whangarei girls. Much to their embarrassment one set got themselves into a tangle, but the man at the loudspeaker eased their tension when he said, `Don't worry girls - my fishing line does that too.' Our first truly provincial day was a success.

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Mrs W J Turnbull, chief commissioner for guides in New Zealand receives "Thinking Day" contributions at the gala day in Kamo.

BATA BUNS - 1971

During the 1960s and 70s the Bata Shoe Company issued challenges to guiding. One I remember was for brownies, a competition to find the best brownie cook in the province. The competition began at pack level, brownies working in pairs, and then the winners met to decide the district, the division and finally the provincial bake-offs.

The recipe was for old-fashioned rock cakes which went something like this:

Cream 4 oz (125 grams) butter and half a cup of sugar. Add 1 well beaten egg and a little sifted flour. Melt 1 tablespoon golden syrup in 2 tablespoons of boiling water and add. Stir in 2 cups of flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, and half a teaspoon cinnamon mixed together. Add 1 cup sultanas. Put teaspoon lots on a cold oven tray and bake 10 to 15 minutes.

The girls were dressed in their uniforms (covered with aprons) and each wore a 'Bata Bun" headband. Their ability to work together, be neat and tidy in their preparation and clean up afterwards all came into the final judging. Two Kaitaia brownies, Denise Dragicevich and Nerrisa Kirby were overall winners. I wonder if they still like to bake!

The judge, Mrs F Woolley of Kamo, with winners Mangonui team Denise Dragicevich and Nerrisa Kirby. In the background are the other finalist teams; Mahurangi (Susan Powell and Bridgit Hull), Hobson (Robyn Revington and Sharon Thompson) Whangarei (Joanne O'Leary and Francie Mahood) and the Loner team (Leanne and Linda Ballantyne of Oakleigh).

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

THOSE CLICKING KNITTING NEEDLES - 1973

It was Lady Baden-Powell who said, "There are no problems, only opportunities."

We did have a problem - we needed money to refurnish Northland's balcony at Arahina. We turned it into an opportunity by knitting peggy square blankets for the Save the Children Fund - a service project that even the smallest brownie could take part in.

"Thons", sponsored happenings, were the in-thing at that time. There were jog-a-thons, swim-a-thons, skip-a-thons, bike-a-thons - you name it, someone turned it into a thon. In our knit-a-thon each girl found friends and family members who would undertake to pay an agreed sum for each square, or in the case of brownies, for each inch knitted. To encourage participation, districts were to keep half the money for their own funds.

It worked. Some districts ran a Saturday event with games interspersing knitting sessions. Mothers, older sisters, even fathers and brothers joined in to swell the pile of brightly coloured squares. Had you been a patient of Dr Paul in Maungaturoto at that time you'd have found partly knitted squares waiting for idle hands to pick up while you waited to see him. These of course earned no money but helped to increase the number of completed rugs. Leaders and committee members took on the mammoth task of sewing them together.

A surprised and delighted Save the Children's representative received sixty-two completed rugs at our AGM that year - they went to Lesotho. The project raised more than $1000.

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Guides and brownies from Kawakawa working half-hour shifts to knit 60 inch strips to be made into rugs.

OPERATION COURTESY AT LUPTON HOUSE - 1973

The idea was born at a leaders' training. Courtesy seemed to be disappearing out the door. Table manners were often nil. Why? What could we do about it? During the discussion we came to a realisation that many children ate breakfast on the run, their lunch from a lunch box or a paper bag, and since the sixties were the early days of television magic, dinner was often eaten sitting on the floor in front of the box.

We hired a Whangarei school hostel for five days, and one hundred girls from all over Northland moved in. Our programme was wide and varied. The girls had choices in sport and handicrafts. Wide-games and fun activities, while the evenings were filled with songs, stories and skits. It took a day or two to establish mealtime behaviour. Each lunch time we'd invited a VIP couple - the mayor and his lady, an Olympic gold medallist and her husband, the manager of our sponsor bank and his ex-ranger leader wife.

Each patrol in turn acted as hostesses, bringing out the best in the girls. For our last afternoon we invited the residents of old people's homes. The girls entertained them with a campfire programme, then served afternoon tea. We leaders were proud of them. It wasn't always easy but it worked. I wonder if they've remembered?

THE SONG SAFARI - 1975

Preceding this event each province held music and song week-end schools. Professional people helped aspiring artists with style and stage presentation. This culminated in performances for parents and friends, and some very good items emerged - it's amazing what a little polish can do!

Again two bus loads set out for Christchurch, this time entertaining the locals at every stop. What fun to sing your way through New Zealand. Unfortunately efforts to arrange more such treks were not successful as costs rose steeply and money was not so plentiful.

ROYAL VISITORS - WAITANGI DAY - 1975

What do you do with bus loads of brownies, guides and rangers arriving at the gates of the Treaty House, Waitangi, milling around in the scorching February heat, when you have no ongoing directions and there isn't an official in sight? You'd think it couldn't happen, but it did. Less than two weeks earlier, a message from the navy had arrived - "Would the girls guides of Northland form a guard of honour for the royal family?"

It was an official letter, a command, but there was no name or phone number for reference. Our units were still in recess as it was near the end of January but everyone sprang into action. I'd expected there would be someone in charge to give us ongoing directions, but when we arrived at the gate there wasn't a person of authority in sight.

For once we felt inadequate. The girls were restless and the leaders did their best to keep order. Finally we located a roped enclosure reserved for us out in the glaring sun. We just hoped everyone had enough liquid with their lunch, and we watched for heat exhaustion as a human chain of girls in blue and brown formed a double line from the dais to the Treaty House.

The programme was exciting. It included dancing by different ethnic groups, massed singing, dance routine to The Age of Aquarius and a hilarious mime which had people clothed in multi-coloured sheep-skins. One, the black sheep of the family, created havoc among them, his antics when a shearer - clad in black singlet and dungarees tied with twine below the knees - came out waving a pair of hand clippers in the air and trying to catch him had the crowd in fits.

Prince Philip, Princess Anne and Prince Charles had accompanied the Queen, and they all rocked with laughter. A happy informal mood prevailed. Excited children and leaders left the grounds later.

"I could have touched her!"

"Isn't she beautiful?"

"She looked right at me!"

A thrilling memory to treasure. The frustrations of poor pre-organisation faded - it was all worthwhile.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF GUIDING IN NORTHLAND - 1976

Fifty years of guiding in Northland was an occasion to celebrate. We did it in the form of a gala day on 20 March 1976, in the Tikipunga High School grounds, Whangarei. Mrs Corkill, Chief Commissioner, was the guest of honour. A highlight was a parade of units displaying the dates of the original opening, and in some cases early members joined in behind their unit names. The Marsden Cross was formed by rangers with a golden rope, and filled with girls in uniform, then massed voices sand Te Haranui. It sounded splendid. Singing, dancing, speeches, and badge and award presentations made up a full and successful day.

Those of us involved in the preparation and execution said a loud "Phew" when the cleaning up was over and we returned home. Then we began planning the golden jubilee luncheon. On 27 May about one hundred and forty adult members and ex-leaders came together at a luncheon to commemorate our 50th year.

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Lighting the candles on the special golden jubilee cake are Mrs J Parsons, left, and Mrs J Hughes, right, watched by Mrs D West..

A special effort was made to invite early members and we were delighted to have Miss Ada Harris, a member of the pre-1914 Peace Scout Troop, and Mrs Eve Dempster (nÇe Day), the first leader of the first Guide company to open in Northland (at Maungaturoto in 1924). It was a day of reminiscing, of fun and laughter, of singing some of those old songs and re-enacting parts of the original handbook. Living proof of the saying "Once a guide always a guide".

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Part of the celebrations, many brownies in international costumes joined with the guides waving ribbons to greet the New Zealand Chief Commissioner of Guides Mrs Phillippa Corkhill.

WIDER OPPORTUNITIES - THE ASIAN TREK

Let's do something different. Sometimes it's important to do something just for leaders in guiding. They are special people and need to be cherished. Hilary Haylock, a member of the national executive came up with the idea. Let each province plan an event to which all others would be invited to participate. There was skiing, boating. trekking, biking and touring - weekends to week-long adventures, as well as less energetic holidays. Something to suit everyone.

Northland's invitation was to tour Penang and Singapore for 12 days. We were a party of fifteen, five of whom had never been out of New Zealand. Two had never flown and for several it was their first taste of a hotel holiday.

Suan Har was at the Penang airport with her husband and daughter to greet us - it was midnight! I had met her at an international conference the year before. Such hugs and greetings! During the ensuing days there were guiding people to escort us everywhere. We watched batik printing, rubber being tapped, pewter being polished, and sugar cane being crushed. We visited pagodas, temples, and the homes of our friends. We ate delicious Asian food and strange fruit. We experienced guiding hospitality at its best.

In Singapore too there were guiding people to look after us. A reception was arranged at their headquarters, where we met all ages - from brownies to their chief commissioner and were able to chat to them during the programme and meal. We saw most of the sights, and the shoppers had a wonderful time.

Some of us visited a fellow guider, Florence Wee, in her 25th-floor apartment in a long row of similar buildings. The ground floor is a shopping complex, milk and daily paper are delivered to her door each day, and the garbage goes down a long shute to a huge bin on the ground floor.

We learned so much about our South-East Asian neighbours during those twelve days - their happy natures, though we know life is not easy for them, their courtesy and their open friendliness. It was a "Wider Opportunity" we will never forget.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS

MRS ADA MILLER, M.B.E. - 1960-1970

Ada Naylor's teaching career took her to several sole charge country schools, including Parapara, Raglan and Ohingaiti. Close contact with pupils and families and a sharing in their country life became her style from the beginning. In the mid-1930s she was appointed headmistress of the Tauriko School. It was here that she formed a keen basketball team, became a lay preacher in the Methodist Church and introduced girl guiding.

In 1947 Ada became principal of the Girls Grammar School in Fiji, and it was due to her enthusiasm that basketball and guiding became established in many parts of Fiji. The M.B.E. was awarded in recognition of her work with youth. In 1959 she retired to New Zealand to marry a long-time friend, Will Miller of Warkworth.

Ada was appointed provincial commissioner of the newly formed Northland province in 1960. During her 10 years in office she worked tirelessly, calling on schools and business and professional people in search of women to become commissioners and leaders, and to set up an executive. With the backing of her new husband and his adult family plus her own energy and "of course you can do it" attitude, she set up a solid foundation for the movement to progress from. Ada also served for four years on the national executive during this time. She died in 1982.

Supporting her were:

Valerie Davies-Martin as secretary/treasurer	1961-1966
Joan Wilson as secretary/treasurer	1966-1970.

DOROTHY VIDA WEST - 1971-1980

From a family of brothers to an international family of girls, Dorothy West's first taste of guiding was as a lone guide when she was eleven. She went on to become a lone guide leader, serving from 1933 to 1954 with a four year break in the forties. In 1948 she was put in charge of the lone guide contingent and when Lady Baden-Powell visited New Zealand Dorothy and met her in Hamilton.

Dorothy's active guiding commenced when the family moved to Northland in 1953. She took on the Onerahi brownie unit, but did not give up her role in lone guiding until 1965. Dorothy was presented with the Oak Leaf that year, and five years later the Medal of Merit for outstanding service to guiding.

Many leaders remember Dorothy as a guide trainer. Her training sessions were done with very little exotic equipment - in fact she literally trained out of a suitcase - and she had an ingenious filing system being able to find anything requested from how to make damper to how to say "hello" in ten different languages. She is one of those people who instantly makes one feel at ease and able to take on any task she may find for you, but was always there to back you up and support you all the way.

A dressmaker by trade, Dorothy has been known to do good turns like sewing five sets of ribbons for maypoles. Just imagine how long they were - and they all had to be turned and pressed. She was also the sole manufacturer for the national association of the cross-over tie once worn by guides. She's made uniforms and even flags, wedding dresses and ditty bags.

Over the years Dorothy has held many offices, but the one most people will remember her for is provincial commissioner. During her term Dorothy also served four years on the national executive.

International guiding has played an important part in Dorothys life and she has hosted many overseas guiders as well as travelling extensively herself both within guiding and privately, exploring unusual places and joining exotic expeditions such as the Earthwatch jungle study of orangutans in Borneo.

In 1977 Dorothy received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for outstanding work in the community. In 1985 she was one of the three women honoured by the Whangarei Plunket Society at their second "Women of Northland" dinner.

Dorothy is well loved throughout Northland guiding and has many friends of all ages in guiding. Now retired from active guiding, she takes a positive role in the Trefoil Guild and the Provincial Council. If Northland guiding ever had a mother, Dorothy is certainly it.

Supporting her were:

Colleen Hooper as Assistant Provincial Commissioner	1975-1980,
Ann Shaw as secretary	1971-1973,
Kathleen Harrison as assistant secretary	1971-1978,
Pam Crimp as secretary	1973-1980,
Shirley Price as treasurer	1978-1980.

HEATHER GUBB - 1980-1988

Heather's introduction to active guiding began when her daughter joined brownies. It was necessary to drive Carolyn some ten miles to her meeting and wait for her - is it so surprising that she was soon helping with the pack? Heather is a real doer.

Her involvement attracted the attention of trainers, and when a district commissioner was needed Heather was persuaded to fill the gap. She was equally competent as division commissioner, and when her appointment as provincial commissioner was announced all who knew her were delighted. I leave Heather herself to relate memories of those years:

"My main and abiding memory will always be the wonderfully generous and talented members of guiding throughout Northland that I was privileged to work with.

"The setting up of our guide shop in Heather Smith's home in Whangarei was a highlight of those years. We were one of the country provinces asked to trial the project. Thanks are due to Heather's skill and dedication and her excellent service to parents and leaders.

"The development of Trefoil Park took place during the 1980s and I have happy memories of the great band of people whose foresight, faith and hard work saw the project established very quickly, and then developed further each year.

What fun our participation in the first national event ever held in Northland was. I was responsible for choosing the site, and planning and preparing for Camp Waitangi - over one thousand girls and leaders under canvas at beautiful Onewhero Bay on the Rogers' property in the Bay of Islands. I remember the first day of camp when I made a toll call

from the administration tent very early to arrange for a milk tanker to bring in the daily water. I wasn't yet familiar with the camp number, and apologised to the operator saying I was having difficulty reading the number in the dark. Impatiently she said, 'Well, why don't you switch on the light?'

"As a member of national executive I travelled many times to Christchurch for meetings. I shall never forget being late for my flight from Whangarei one morning. Arriving at the airport breathless and in full uniform, complete with hat (which never suited me), I was relieved to see the plane still on the tarmac even though it was just after departure time. I rushed up to the counter, ticket in hand expecting to carry my case to the plane. A rather surprised ticketing clerk assured me that wouldn't be necessary. I flew through the terminal and raced out to the plane. As I entered the hostess looked rather surprised. So was I, the plane was empty. It had been late arriving and the boarding call hadn't been given yet. I shrank down in my seat all the way to Auckland immersed in the morning paper. Truly the most embarrassing memory of my guiding years."

Supporting her were;

Pam Crimp as secretary	1980 to 1988,
Claire Watts as assistant secretary	1985 to 1986,
Colleen Hooper as treasurer	1980 to 1988.

SYBIL OVERTON - 1988-1994

Sybil grew up in England, trained as a teacher, then went out to Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia. There she met her husband-to-be, Tony, married and had two daughters.

"We came here in 1967, and later that year our kiwi daughter was born. I became involved with guiding when my daughters wanted to join brownies. First of all I was a member of the local association. Then when there was a plea for someone to take guides I innocently volunteered to help out until a leader could be found.

"Well, I was hooked then, wasn't I? I think I became more enthusiastic than my daughters. I even went camping - and I enjoyed it. I've had a lot of fun, made many friends, and learnt skills. One of the highlights for me was being selected to go to Australia as a New Zealand trainer to participate in the International Training Trek in 1988 - the Australian bi-centennial year.

"This gave me the chance to experience international guiding and that is something very special indeed. As provincial commissioner I was also able to see the organisation from a national perspective. I have been very impressed with the professional attitude of this wonderful organisation. There are some wonderful, very talented people involved and there is an enormous wealth of experience, attitudes and characters - and what is so tremendous is the fact that they are all sisters under the skin.

A special place for New Zealand guiding is Arahina and I have enjoyed being there on many occasions. The first time I went I was very nervous. The guider-in-charge was quite formidable. It was May and quite cool. The first evening I was eager and early and I went into Frimley (a room) before dinner. There was no one else there. It was chilly and I stood shivering just as the Guider-in -charge came by. I smiled. She said `I suppose you do know how to light the fire? Don't just stand there shivering.' What an ordeal, setting and lighting that fire. It was worse that sitting an exam.

"I also recall another time staying in the Northland room, right above the verandah. One of the duties was to ring the large bell which was on the verandah as a wake up bell before 7 am. That meant getting up and going down stairs. I was more confident then and full of a few tricks, so when it was my turn to rise early to ring the bell I found a better way to do it. I lowered a length of rope from our bedroom window and tied it to the bell. The other end I secured to the leg of my bed. The next morning ringing it was breeze - I just lay in bed and tugged on the rope. The bell clanged loudly and I had ten more minutes in bed and got up with everyone else. Arahina is truly a special place. I like to think it is the spirit of the many guiding folk who have stayed there over the years, enjoying friendship, laughter and fun in true guiding spirit.

Supporting her were:

Beverley McCracken as Assistant Provincial Commissioner	1990-1994,
Muriel Manning as secretary	1988-1994,
Rae Atkin as assistant secretary	1988-1990,
Dorothy Clover as assistant secretary	1990-1993,
Margaret Savage as treasurer	1988-1993, and
Sue Armstrong as treasurer	1993-1994.

BEVERLEY FRANCIS - 1994-onwards

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Beverley's involvement with guiding began when her youngest daughter decided to join brownies in 1978. She became leader of the brownie pack in Paihia and since then has served as district commissioner, division commissioner for Hobson, and international advisor for Northland. In 1992 she was presented with the provinces highest award, the Arataki. Beverley wasn't born in Northland, but had moved to the Bay of Islands from the lower North Island when she was was nine.

"My grandmother had settled there years earlier and I'd spent, many holidays with her. It was like coming home, it felt right. Those were very happy years as I grew up. Having also spent my earlier years in rural areas, I had developed a great love of the outdoors. Part of my secondary schooling and tertiary education was spent in Auckland. I tolerated the city. During that time I learnt to play both piano and cello. I played in both the Auckland Teachers College Orchestra and the New Zealand Junior National Symphony Orchestra. I finally completed my training as a home economics and clothing teacher and headed for the Bay of Islands to teach at the secondary school in Kawakawa. There I met my future husband, also a teacher. The years that followed were filled with the joy of six children. During that time we moved to Waione, then Levin.

"I continued to challenge myself to something new. I attended art classes for many years taking the youngest - the twins - with me. I learnt the bagpipes to the dismay of the neighbours, and was often to be seen marching around the house practising, all this because two sons wanted to learn and thought that Mum ought to too. Dad became the keeper of the younger children at these times. I taught Sunday School, became involved in church committees, and went back to part time teaching.

"When we moved back to the Bay of Islands I vowed that I would live the quiet life - what a foolish thought! Church committees and Sunday School teaching all started again. In 1978 my youngest daughter wanted to join brownies. I was hooked into guiding.

"Look where it landed me - a bigger challenge, and one I accepted because I really care about the young people who will be tomorrow's world. If through guiding we can offer young girls positive ways to understand each others differences, to take leadership, and to play and work together as part of a world organisation, then perhaps we are going a little way to helping the world to become a more peaceful place."

Supporting her are: Cecilie Palmer as secretary 1994-onwards, Phillipa Robertson as treasurer 1994-onwards, Jan Finlayson as registration secretary 1994-onwards.

DIVISION COMMISSIONERS

Joan Wilson, Mahurangi, 1960-68
Kath Moore, Rodney, 1962-68
Dorothy West, Central/Whangarei, 1961-69
Pam Carver, Hobson, 1967-77
Mavis Tree, Manganui, 1967-75
Jennifer Miller, Mahurangi, 1968-79
Jean Stenburg, Whangarei, 1969-73
Heather Smith, Whangarei, 1973-82
Shirley Crawford, Mangonui, 1975-79
Heather Gubb, Hobson, 1977-80
Sue Reid, Hobson, 1980-82
Janice Dunning, Mahurangi, 1979-87
Sheila Marshall, Mangonui, 1979-86
Heather Smith, Tangihua, 1982-83
Ann Shaw, Whangarei, 1982-86, 1991-94
Shirley Mellsop, Hobson, 1982-89
Margaret Fromont, Tangihua, 1983-88
Beryl Morrison, Mangonui, 1986-91
Estelle Olsen, Whangarei, 1986-87
Dorothy Clover, Whangarei, 1987-90
Verna Braddick, Mahurangi, 1987-95
Beverley McCracken, Tangihua, 1988-92
Beverley Francis, Hobson, 1989-93
Ava Thomas, Mangonui, 1991-95
Jenni Moors, Tangihua, 1992-
Jean Chave, Whangarei, 1994-
Dawn Pearce, Mangonui, 1995-
Christine Passmore, Mahurangi, 1995-
Norma Hubbard, Hobson, 1995-

1990-91 Northland Commissioners

TRAINERS

During the first few years, before we had established a training team, we used trainers from Headquarters, and from Auckland Province for residential week-ends. A day training in Divisions would occasionally be held by a travelling trainer from Headquarters, and then there were gatherings without a trainer, just leaders sharing ideas. From 1990 onwards trainers were no longer registered for a particular Branch.

Elma Burns, Camp, 1966-71
Pam Carver, Camp, 1966-71
Dorothy West, Guide, 1966-72
Jan Jessiman, Guide, 1967-71
Shirley Crawford, Brownie, 1967-88
Commissioner, 1974-88
Jennifer Taylor, Camp, 1968-75
Jose Gamble, Camp, 1968-74
Jan Jessiman, Guide, 1967-72
Jennifer Miller, Camp, 1968-76
Sheila Marshall, Brownie, 1970-85
Commissioner, 1976-86
Ann Shaw, Guide, 1973-89
Diploma, 1978-89
Commissioner, 1974-79
Ivy Ball, Camp, 1975-78
Valda Smith, Brownie, 1976-79
Verna Braddick, Camp, 1979-91
Sybil Overton, Guide, 1979-91
Commissioner, 1987-94
Ava Thomas, Brownie, 1979-90
Administration, 1987-90
Jackie Addenbrook, Guide, 1981-86
Claire Watts, Ranger, 1981-84
Linda Wilkins, Diploma, 1983-87
Elspeth Speed, Brownie, 1982-86
Audrey Brockbank, Brownie, 1982-86
Liz Williams, Guide, 1985-
Philippa de Vere, Guide, 1989-
Sonia Faulkner, 1990-91
Veronica Mullinger, 1990-94
Eileen Andrews, 1993-
Alison Allen, 1993-
Sheila Udjur, 1994-
Shirley Tuckey, 1994-

NATIONAL MEDAL AWARDS

NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Pam Crimp with her Medal of merit August 16, 1983.

1960, Dorothy West, Oak Leaf
1962, G Martin, Oak Leaf
1966, Ada Miller MBE, Beaver
1967, Dorothy West, Queen's Jubilee medal
1968, Joan Wilson, Oak Leaf
1979, Dorothy West, Medal of Merit
1980, Heather Gubb, Fern
1984, Pam Crimp, Medal of Merit
1986, Heather Smith, Fern
1987, Verna Braddick, Fern
Colleen Hooper, Fern
Ann Shaw, Fern
1988, Shirley Crawford, Fern
Heather Gubb, Kauri
1989, Sybil Overton, Fern
Beth Frost, Fern
Liz Williams, Fern
1994, Beverly McCracken, Fern.

PROVINCIAL AWARDS

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

For non-uniformed helpers, introduced in 1982.

1982
- Mr D Frost
- Mr S Gubb
- Mr H Marshall
- Mr P O'Connor

1983
- Mrs D Auld
- Mrs B Cookson
- Mrs J Fearnley
- Mrs B Francis
- Mrs M Gibbons
- Mrs P Shaw
- Mrs C White
- Mrs S Young

1984
- Mrs J Bradley
- Mrs J Bull
- Mrs C Crosby
- Mrs T Gregory
- Mrs M Kingston
- Mrs L Lawrence
- Mrs M Lomas
- Mrs C Luck
- Mrs J McLean
- Mrs J Miller
- Mrs N Renner
- Mrs E Robertson
- Mrs K Smith
- Mrs M Schutt
- Mrs M Vander Kolk
- Mrs K Wykes

1985
- Mrs J Bonham
- Mrs B Carter
- Mrs D Fearnley
- Mrs M Julian
- Mrs L Mabbott
- Mrs J Painter
- Mrs J Swipe
- Mr R Braddick
- Mr L Brockbank
- Mrs J Cossar
- Mr I Manning
- Mr R Mellsop
- Mr I Schedeway
- Mr A Te Whata
- Mr D Williams

1986
- Mrs A Challenger
- Mrs J Linton
- Mrs D Trewin

1987
- Mrs S Dornbusch
- Mrs D Erceg
- Mrs B Martin
- Mrs D Martin
- Mrs J Miller
- Mrs H Rogers
- Mrs J Rowarth
- Mrs F Sullivan
- Mr B Emmerson
- Mr R Kennett
- Mr I Manning
- Mrs V Bridge

1988
- Mrs J Fisher
- Mrs J Forbes
- Mrs D Joyce
- Mr E Culham
- Mr B Sharrat

1989
- Mrs A Jurgens
- Mrs G McCool
- Mrs S Olliff
- Mrs E Wintle

Mrs S Pearce
Mr and Mrs T Drupsteen

1990

Mrs H Atkins
Mrs J Bowers
Mrs G Corby
Mrs M Lee
Mrs Reed
Mrs R Repitini
Mrs L Scott
Mrs L Vanderley

1991

Mrs S Carruthers
Mrs J Gray
Mrs F Jack
Mrs J Nalst
Mrs C Poutsma
Mr J Cossar
Mr I Robertson
Mrs J Bowers

1992

Mrs L Davis
Mrs P Gabriels
Mrs D Galyer
Mrs D Haigh
Mrs L Nesbit
Mrs M Osborne

1993

Mrs C Palmer
Mrs L Wilkins
Mr W Speed

1994

Mrs S Holmes
Mrs S Farr
Mrs C Jagiello
Mrs C May
Mrs L Moore
Mr D Davis-Colley.

In 1982 a Certificate of Commendation was introduced.
In 1990 it was renamed the renamed the Certificate of Good Service. This precedes the Good Service Badge.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION- CERTIFICATE OF GOOD SERVICE

1982

Jackie Addenbrooke
Christine Bygrave
Jackie Craymer
Philippa De Vere
Rochelle Ford
Maureen French
Jane Gavin
Mary Imms
Margaret King
Beverley McCracken
Jean McLean
Pat McKenzie
Dawn Pearce
Margaret Savage
Maureen Simmonds
Ann Simpson
Elspeth Speed
Jean Tito
Liz Williams
Sue Carppe

1983

Lois Davie-Martin
Betty Gurnell
Judith Larsen
Kath Little
Ann McKay
Margaret Marshall
Jennifer Martin
Diana Menefy
Althea Moss
Ngaire Powdrill
Mary Starr
Denise Williams

1984

Raewyn Algie
Marion Austin
Jean Barge
Leslie Dennis
Sue Grant
Joy Leenders
Lorraine Long

Beryl McGunnigle
Muriel Manning
Ann Mansfield
Lorraine Moore
Jenny Moores
Dorothy Morris
Barbara Morrison
Vera Moulton
Shirley Shepherd
Mavis Shuker
Michelle Stevens
Pam Tucker
Maxine Tucker

1985

Joy Brach
Pam Campbell
Leslie-Ann Eggleton
Karen Emmerson
Barbara Heywood
Raewyn Massey
Dorothy Norris
Iris Norman
Carol Pentacost
Eileen Robertson
Pat Schedeway
Karen Smith
Lyn Smith
Thelma Smith
Leslie Walker

1986

Denise Brownlie
Glennis Collins
Fran Morris
Lynda Neilson
June Wilson

1987

Maree Benjamin
Marie Cardin
Marcia Douglas
Michelle Ford
Heather Graves
Marlene Hopkins
Marion Howell
Tafaale Maddern
Shona Nash
Barbara Rankin
Dianne Sanders
Mary Smith
Shirley Tuckey
Renee White
Jill Whitmore
Anna Williams
Barbara Woodcock

1988

Alison Allen
Christine Barnetta
Jean Bull
Dorothy Butcher
Sybil Crook
Linda Dangen
Tina Drumm
Sonia Eales
Sonia Faulkner
Hilary Gittos
Heather Gordon
Yvonne Harris
Nichole Hawes
Andrea Hope
Barbara Hunter
Rangi Lindberg
Valerie McCrea
Sue Morfett
Veronica Mullinger
Barbara Saward
Lyn Saward
Sally Taylor
Robin Thomas
Elizabeth Yearbury

1989

Sue Armstrong
Jennifer Borck
Jaqueline Carr
Dorothy Clover
Heather Edwards
Catherine Hartles
Ann Hilton
Helen Hollister
Anthea Kane
Nola Litten
Janice Langman
Heather Gordon
Jenni Moors
Fran Morris
Lynda Nielson
Atarangi Norman
Dianne Sanders

Shirley Tuckey
Jill Whitmore
Stephanie McGill
Barbara Martin
Sue Peachey
Nona Rogers
Shirley Scholefield
Judy Terrey
Margaret Williamson

1990

Eileen Andrews
Glennis Bellingham
Vicki Breen
Colleen Cates
Tina Drumm
Claire Eady
Liz Finn
Jill Hartles
Jennifer Jones
Shirley King
Elizabeth Langstone
Leah Lavich
Lynette Oakden
Bernadette Radonich
Philippa Robertson
Gaylene Speed
Shiela Ujdur
Zephne Williamson

1991

Dianne Attwood
Nicola Aulsbrook
Judith Bowers
Karen Carding
Janice Cook
Christine Cotterill
Dianne Crawford
Janet Foster
Margaret Foster
Margaret Heywood
Carol Hodgson
Maureen Hope
Susan McCracken
Christine Passmore
Lyn Pooley
Elaine Preston
Pauline Ross
Janet Rowarth
Tui Taylor
Irene Wachtman

1992

Linda Anderson
Laurie Brown
Natasha Copeland
Lois Cullen
Maureen Hakin
Aileen McLachlan
Suzanne Miller
Megan Nicholl
Carolyn Penman
Lyn Preston

1993

Delwyn Chambers
Rosemary Frethey
Jan Jessiman
Audrey Lappin
Christine McKay
Esther McIntosh
Johanna Mabbot
Patricia Olsen
Judith Radd

1994

Elizabeth Allen
Dorothy Burton
Helen Clark
Debra Giles
Jacqui Hart
Patricia Horsford
Norma Hubbard

GOOD SERVICE BADGE

1961
Trudie Martin
1971
Elma Burns
1974
Jo Gamble
Sybil Moores
Jean Stenberg
Dawn Stokes
1975
Doreen Fisher
Margaret Skilton
Mavis Tree
1976
Beryl Morrison
1977
Ivy Ball
Pam Carver
Riro Marrett
1978
Shirley Brockie
Pam Crimp
Sheila Marshall
Ann Shaw
1979
Maude Christie
Dot Cossar
Heather Gubb
Velma Kennett
Sue Reid
Heather Smith
Ava Thomas
Edna Tuck
1980
Sylvia Bourdot
Verna Braddick
Jeanette Cox
Dorothy Gardner
Colleen Hooper
Angela Kissling
Mavis Linnell
Sybil Overton
Ingrid Posthumus
Claire Watts
1981
Shirley Bullen
Beth Frost
Shirley Mellsop
1982
Doreen Bray
Lorna Church
Margaret Fromont
Jill Renner
1983
Jan Finlayson
Rochelle Ford
Julia Penney
Cilla Robust
Vera Moss
Merylene Satherly
Margaret Savage
Elspeth Speed
1984
Jackie Addenbrooke
Liz Bowker
Jean Chave
Jackie Craymer
Lois Davie-Martin
Bernice Davies
Janice Dunning
Betty Gurnell
Mary Le Noel
Kath Little
Beverley McCracken
Diana Menefy
Dawn Pearce
Ngaire Powdrill
Ann Simpson
Mary Starr
1985
Rochelle Ford
Jocelyn Huges
Muriel Manning
Lorraine Moore
Maureen Simmonds
Dorothy Simpson
Jean Tito
Maxine Tucker
1986
Jean Barge

Thelma Gregory
Carol Pentacost

1987

Raewyn Algie
Jo Fearnley
Dorothy Morris
Patricia Schedeway
Beverley Walker
Rosemary Wood

1988

Pat Adams
Pamela Campbell
Glennis Collins
Leslie Dennis
Beverley Francis
Kath Herbert
Annette Randall
Susan Robertson
Michelle Stephenson
Mavis Shuker

1989

Heather Gordon
Jenni Moors
Fran Morris
Lynda Nielson
Atarangi Norman
Dianne Sanders
Shirley Tuckey
Jill Whitmore

1990

Jean Bull
Dorothy Butcher
Susan Morfett
Veronica Mullinger
Shirley Scholefield
Alison Allen
Sybil Crook

1991

Linda Dangen
Sonia Eales
Heather Edwards
Hilary Gittos
Helen Hollister
Janice Langman
Nona Rogers
Sally Taylor
June Wilson

1992

Jacqueline Carr
Dorothy Clover
Stephanie McGill
Sue Peachey
Philippa Robertson

1993

Sue Armstrong
Karen Carding
Liz Finn
Jill Hartles
Maureen Hope
Jan Jessiman
Jennifer Jones
Barbara Martin
Janet Rowarth

1994

Eileen Andrews
Sue McCracken
Christine Passmore
Sheila Ujdur.

ARATAKI

The highest Provincial award, introduced in 1977

1977
Kathleen Harrison
Dorothy West
1979
Shirley Crawford
Pam Crimp
1980
Sheila Marshall
1981
Ann Shaw
Heather Smith
1982
Verna Braddick
Colleen Hooper
1983
Dot Cossar
Heather Gubb
Velma Kennett
1984
Dorothy Gardner
1985
Maude Christie
Sybil Overton
Ava Thomas
1986
Shirley Brockie
Beth Frost
Angela Kissling
Beryl Morrison
Claire Watts
1987
Doreen Bray
Audrey Brockbank
Jackie Craymer
Margaret Fromont
Shirley Mellsop
Mary Starr
Elspeth Speed
Linda Wilkins
1988
Jackie Addenbrook
Liz Bowker
Jo Fearnley
Rochelle Ford
Lorraine Moore
Dawn Pearce
Margaret Savage
Liz Williams
1989
Jean Chave
Beverley McCracken
Jean Tito
Philippa De Vere
1990
Rosemary Woods
Susan Robertson
1991
Beverley Francis
1992
Muriel Manning
1993
Shirley Scholefield
Shirley Shepherd
Barbara Woodcock

QUEEN'S GUIDES

Erin Wright, Kaitaia (Lone)
Dorothy Cullen, Maungaturoto
Beverly Rowe, Matakana
Susan Robertson, Warkworth
Marion Ball, Maungaturoto
Kathleen Gardner, Mangwhai
Neta Wood, Matakana
Kathryn Buckton, Warkworth
Margaret Baker, Warkworth
Patricia Craighead, Whangarei
Lorraine Choat, Whangarei
Jennifer Butt, Whangarei
Linda McDonald, Whangarei
Robyn Skilton, Whangarei (Lone)
Robyn Taylor, Whangarei
Raewyn Small, Whangarei
Brenda Hart, Whangarei
Christine Bradley, Whangarei
Josephine Mallet, Whangarei
Rosylind Mullinger, Whangarei
Elizabeth McLaren, Whangarei
Lynn Gardiner, Whangarei
Ann Taylor, Dargaville
Valerie Antill, Maungaturoto
Judith Domb, Whangarei
Robyn Weaver, Whangarei
Susan Crimp, Whangarei
Robyn Little, Opua (Lone)
Catherine Starr, Warkworth
Robyn Starr, Warkworth
Lisa Meldrum
Susan Miller, Warkworth
Tania Bishop, Warkworth
Joanne Green, Titoki
Lynette Harre, Whenuapai
Sheree Chapman, Whenuapai
Annette Appleton, Dargaville (Lone)
Marion Antill, Maungaturoto
Gaye Rochester, Whangarei
Sally Roughton, Whangarei
Dawn Moores, Whangarei
Robyn Gardiner, Warkworth
Marion Wood, Matakana
Jennifer Mason, Kerikeri
Karen Ball, Maungaturoto
Christine Cave, Kaukapakapa
Susan Knapp, Kerikeri (Lone)
Ann Livingstone, Mangawhai
Charis Nosgaard, Matakohe (Lone)
Heather Birnie, Whangarei
Kathleen Lynburn, Whangarei
Fiona Jessiman, Kaeo
Ann Crimp, Whangarei
Tania Holmes Kinsella, Whangarei
Jennifer Wright, Whangarei (Lone)
Judith Walker, Whangarei
Claire Hansen, Whangarei
Linda Neilson, Whangarei
Michelle Nilsson, Kaitaia (Lone)
Christine Miller, Kaitaia (Lone)
Maree Young, Kerikeri
Carol Pearce, Kaitaia
Rochelle Malcolm, Warkworth

Whangarei senior guide, Sally Roughton with her Queens Guide badge. She received it from Archdeacon G A Butt at a church parade at Christ Church, Whangarei on Sunday October 15, 1967.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

1960-69

BRONZE

Ann Crimp

1970-79

BRONZE

Toni Monson
Ann Taylot
Jennifer Bilkey
Susan Crimp
Rosemary Wilson
Janice Chalmers
Amanda Lees
Patricia Lees
Ann Henry
Margaret Allen
Sharon Gamble
Glenda Skelton
Julie Smith

SILVER

Ruth Gardner
Joanna Comeley
Ann Crimp
Susan Crimp
Julie Arrandale
Elaine Donaldson
Christine Quilter
Jone Sweeting
Sabrina Blom
Mary Flood
Helen Biddle
Karen Plunkell
Catherine Wilson
Robyn Skelton
Adreinne McLean

GOLD

Ann Crimp
Susan Crimp

1980-89

BRONZE

Lesley Hastings
Maureen Plunket
Paula Bygrave
Margaret Gibbons
Jane Larsen
Hilary Brown
Angela Gallie
Helen Marshall
Bridget Smith
Kim Williamson
Heather Davis
Melanie Hilton

SILVER

Shona Florence
Julie Smith
Annette Smal
Paula Bygrave
Jane Larsen
Kim Williamson

GOLD

Diane Corker

1990-2000

BRONZE

Linley Pirihi

SILVER

Melanie Hilton
Naomi Craymer

On a wide, red-carpeted staircase at Buckingham palace, Ann Morgan, nee Crimp, holds her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award was presented by the Duke himself. "It was a day I shall always cherish and feel honoured to have been part of," said Ann.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

Without girls there would be no guiding. Without leaders there would be no girls. Guiding is a world-wide organisation, and as such, there are channels of communication which link us together. This is how they operate:

Districts

A district commissioner meets regularly with the leaders in her area to co-ordinate events, conduct training sessions and pass on information.

Divisions

Made up of two or more districts. The division commissioner meets with her district commissioners when information is passed both ways between the units in each district and province. This is often the sounding board for ideas and problems as well.

Provinces

The provincial executive is made up of all division commissioners and all branch advisers - those responsible for international, outdoor interests, lones, public relations, etc. The executive is chaired by the provincial commissioner.

National

Headed by the chief commissioner. All twenty-one provinces in New Zealand are represented at national level by their own provincial commissioners.

The World

A triennial world conference is attended by representatives from each country. Regional meetings are also held. We belong to the Asia-Pacific region. Changes to policy may filter through from an idea at unit level, if considered worthy through each channel, and if such an idea is adopted it will then filter back through each channel to every unit. Invitations to attend world or regional events may be taken up by any member within the advertised age group, though usually there is a selection, which also operates through the channels.

LADY BADEN-POWELL - 1889-1977

HER LAST MESSAGE

Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, world chief guide, left a message to be read after her death:

I trust that you will continue fully to use the system of work and play that our movement provides. Keep up the fun and the friendships made at your meetings and camps; abiding by the Promise and upholding the Laws that you undertook to live by when you joined up.

In that way, you will not only advance yourself in body, mind and spirit, but you will affect those around you in doing what is honourable, and right, and wise, and giving out kindness of thought and action; thus striving against all ills and helping to make the world a happier place in which to live.

I trust that you will be successful in all your tasks, and may God be with you all in the coming years.

No mourning as such —- all rejoicing and happy remembrances and delight at my having completed my life - my prayers have been answered.

God give me work till the end of my life,
God give me life till my work is done.
Now I hand mine on to others.

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